

# The Bulletin

## The Historical Society of Decatur County

Vol. 7 No 13

January 2001

Greensburg, Indiana

The Historic Day Trip in October to the Falls of the Ohio State Park and Locust Grove was a huge success. Thanks Joe Westhafer and your committee.

### Annual Meeting

**Plans for the annual meeting have not been finalized as of the Bulletin deadline. Watch for notice in the Smith Daily News column.**

### Welcome to all our 2000 New Members

Billman, Dan and Jane  
Bozeman, Sara Jean  
Cochran, Patricia/ Indianapolis  
Cowan, Mellisa/ Milroy  
Fry, David and Linda  
Johannigman, Mr and Mrs. Roman  
Karty, Mary Marg  
Laskowski, E.E. and Lois  
Martin, JoAnne  
McCormack, Lois Carol  
Meek, Bob and Katy  
Metz, Art and Carole, Indianapolis  
Miller, Jim and Jinks  
Moeller, Susanne  
Morgan, Loyd and Martha  
Names, Sally / Bend, Oregon  
Payne, Juanita and Daniel/ Bolingbrook, IL  
Pearce, Sharon/ Aurora, CO  
Rooker, Bob and Pat  
Ross, Kathy/ Westport  
Schlemmer, June  
Simmons, Robert and Rita  
Springmier, Craig and Julie/ Eaton, Ohio  
Springmier, Joyce  
Stier, Harold/ Cincinnati  
Volk, Teresa  
Williams, Sue/ Elkhart

### Members respond

The following members responded to the editor's request to help put the **Bulletin** pages together and help ready it for mailing. Thanks to each of the respondents, and to those who forgot to volunteer but are just waiting to call at the first opportunity. The more volunteers we have the fewer times each will need to help.  
Polly McCreary and Roy Conner for January  
Patt Luken and Phyliess Doreflinger for April  
Bob and Mrs. Mitchell for July  
Jean Riddell and Jennifer McNealy one or two afternoons when not working.  
Kathryn Bailey when needed

### Dues are due in January!!!

### In this issue

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# Museum News



*by President  
Diana  
Springmier*

The museum entered the millennium, closing the 200 season with its annual open house, an event titled "A Taste of Christmas Past," which was an unforgettable step back in time. Colonial arched wreaths of fruit outlined the windows greeting guests as they walked toward the front porch door. A child's Studebaker goat wagon, over flowing with brightly wrapped packages, set the stage for what was to come. Antique ornaments, five hundred of Helen Hamilton's collection, were on loan hanging from every branch of the North Parlor's Christmas tree while an eighty-year-old miniature village with cardboard houses, sparkling cotton snow and bottlebrush trees covered the library table recalling memories of earlier family Christmases for many of the guests. The mantle was artistically arranged with fruit piled high, topped by the traditional Colonial symbol of hospitality, a fresh pineapple whose sweetness wafted through the room.

And hospitality was at its best as longtime friends had many a reunion and hug in the parlors while Bob Rooker, accompanied by Willadene Wood, played his trumpet and also sang carols providing the perfect ambience as friends entered the sea of silver in the dining room. Silver hollowware filled the tops of the buffet, server and the mantle. The sparkling silver tree on the dining table was surrounded by holiday cookies on silver trays which were highlighted by Gladys and Bill Pike's warm bread pudding topped with vanilla sauce and chapped pecans. Many a visitor was drawn to the festivities by the word that the Pikes would again have a culinary Christmas gift on the museum's dining room table.

Children, accompanied by parents and grandparents, sang and even provided some of the entertainment as they soaked up history-come-to-life, partaking of a Christmas of long ago for a few hours on an unforgettable Sunday afternoon at 222 North Franklin Street.

The display committee of Ginny Garvey, Ruth Cash, and Helen Hamilton again delighted the community with their talents and hard work in designing the museum's first floor rooms for the holiday season and have put this party as one not to miss.

Pitching in to help for the afternoon were board members Charity Mitchell, Kathryn Bailey, Russell and Nancy Wilhoit and Society member Jane Keith. Phyllis Doerflinger and Margaret Herbert provided the cookies and Diana Springmier the cranberry punch.

The museum is ready for its winter rest and will be closed January through March, opening in April with dolls, past and present, on display. If anyone has a childhood doll you would like to share for this exhibit, please call Ginny at 812-663-2997.

The museum greeted the New Year with an unexpected gift from the North Decatur Elementary School Little Hoosiers, an Indiana History club sponsored by the Indiana Historical Society. The welcome monetary gift from the fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students will be used for archival preservation of pictures and other historical materials in the upstairs display rooms. The students will be making a difference by restoring and preserving their ancestors' donations so future generations can enjoy learning about life in Decatur County over the years. The enthusiasm and interest in history by those of us who have worked to present Decatur County history through the museum's displays and activities much hope for the New Year.

Amy H. Waybright sent this story about baseball in Greensburg. The writer of the piece was not included. Ethie Waybright was Amy's father-in-law.

## LOYD'S REDS WERE PRIDE IN GREENSBURG AT TURN OF CENTURY

A look into the past discloses that baseball was of top interest to most sports followers around the turn of the century.

Popularity of the diamond game here was probably due primarily to a couple of reasons. One, it was about the only spectator sport going back in those days. Secondly, and of major importance, was the fact that Greensburg had one of the finest independent teams around.

From about 1901 to 1905 Creth Loyd's Greensburg Reds were the pride and joy of the townspeople, and understandably so. The team played all comers, including many clubs from organized leagues; seldom did they come away second best.

The late Creth Loyd, who later was Mayor of Greensburg, was the owner and manager of the team, and he went to great ends to bring the best talent available to his Reds. He was engaged in the poultry business at the time, but his interest was in baseball.

Although the team was not in an organized league, it had professional status, as all the players were salaried. Most of the personnel either had major or minor league experience or were to go into organized baseball later.

Ethie Waybright of Rt. 1 is believed to be the only member of the team still living. Waybright, who was the youngest player on the roster at 17 years of age, was a regular outfielder throughout the life of the Reds.

A fleet-footed southpaw, Waybright played both right and left fields, depending on the number of left-handed batters in the opposing line-up.

The team had four pitchers, two right-handed and two port-siders. And they needed that many for they played an average of four or five games per week throughout the season. The pitching staff embodied two Decatur County men. They were Clarence Donnell, a big fast-ballng right-hander, and "Peenee" Minor of the Milford community.

Minor had played league ball and was known far and wide for his "quick return" pitch. When

the catcher returned the ball to him he would quickly fire it back across the plate before the batter could get set. This is now outlawed by the rules.

The other hurlers on the club, according to Waybright, were George Die and John McCord of Indianapolis and former Western Association players. The Western Association was the fore-runner of the present American Association. Frank Cross was the catcher.

The infield consisted of Pete Garvey at first base, Omer Firestine at second, Harry Braden at shortstop, and Harry Rue at the hot corner. Of this quartet, only Braden, another youthful member of the team, was from this county.

The regular outfields, besides Waybright, were "Red" White who played center, and Orly Candiff, who alternated with Waybright in left and right fields.

The Reds played their home games on a diamond behind the Big Four roundhouse. A canvas was stretched around the field on game days and a large grandstand stood behind home plate.

Waybright recalls the team usually played at home on Sunday and one other afternoon and played games on the road three days of each week. Loyd's Reds toured the state, playing such towns as Connersville, Shelbyville, Frankfort and Danville, and frequently clashed with teams from Indianapolis and Cincinnati.

There was a great rivalry between the towns concerning their baseball team, and each club had its share of loyal supporters. When an important game was on tap a special train would be chartered to transport fans.

It was a big day in town when the Reds met one of their traditional foes. As many as 2500 spectators would jam the local park to witness the duel. It was a gala event in all respects, complete with band music and ballyhoo aplenty.

Mr. Waybright, who is still remarkable active for his age, vividly remembers many of the classic battles engaged in by the old Greensburg

*continued on page 4*

Reds, including two contests here in Greensburg with the Cincinnati Redlegs of the National League. The local nine didn't defeat its major league counterpart with the same nickname either time they played them Waybright stated, but did make a creditable showing. The score was rather close in both games he said.

Around 1905 the team broke up. Most of the players signed on with other clubs. Waybright, who said he could have gone into organized baseball but didn't because you know, "they didn't pay much back in those days," did his playing for the Shelbyville after the team disbanded.



### Number of seeds in a bushel

Name .....	# of seeds...	# lbs in bushel
Wheat.....	10,500.....	58 to 64
Barley.....	15,400.....	48 to 66
Buckwheat.....	25,000.....	48 to 50
Turnips(Rendle's Swede) ....	155,000.....	50 to 56
Cabbage.(Scotch Drumhead)	128,000.....	56
Clover, red.....	249,600.....	60
Clover, white.....	686,400.....	50 to 56

The information about seeds per bushel came from an 1875 "Agricultural Almanac." The editor got it from a Scotch paper that stated it was based upon actual trials.

Of course I can't vouch for the accuracy of the report. Names of varieties included Cornish Holdfast Turnips, Orange Jelly Turnips, Drumhead Savoy Cabbage and so on. I wonder if any of these varieties are used now.

### Maple Walnut Cream Pudding

1 cups milk  
1 cup maple syrup  
2 tbsp. cornstarch  
1 cup cream

1/4 tsp. salt  
2 eggs  
1 cup chopped nuts

Heat 1 3/4 cups of milk in double boiler with 1 cup syrup. Mix rest of milk, cornstarch and salt and stir into mixture. Cook and then add beaten eggs. Cook a few more minutes and add nuts. Serve with whipped cream.

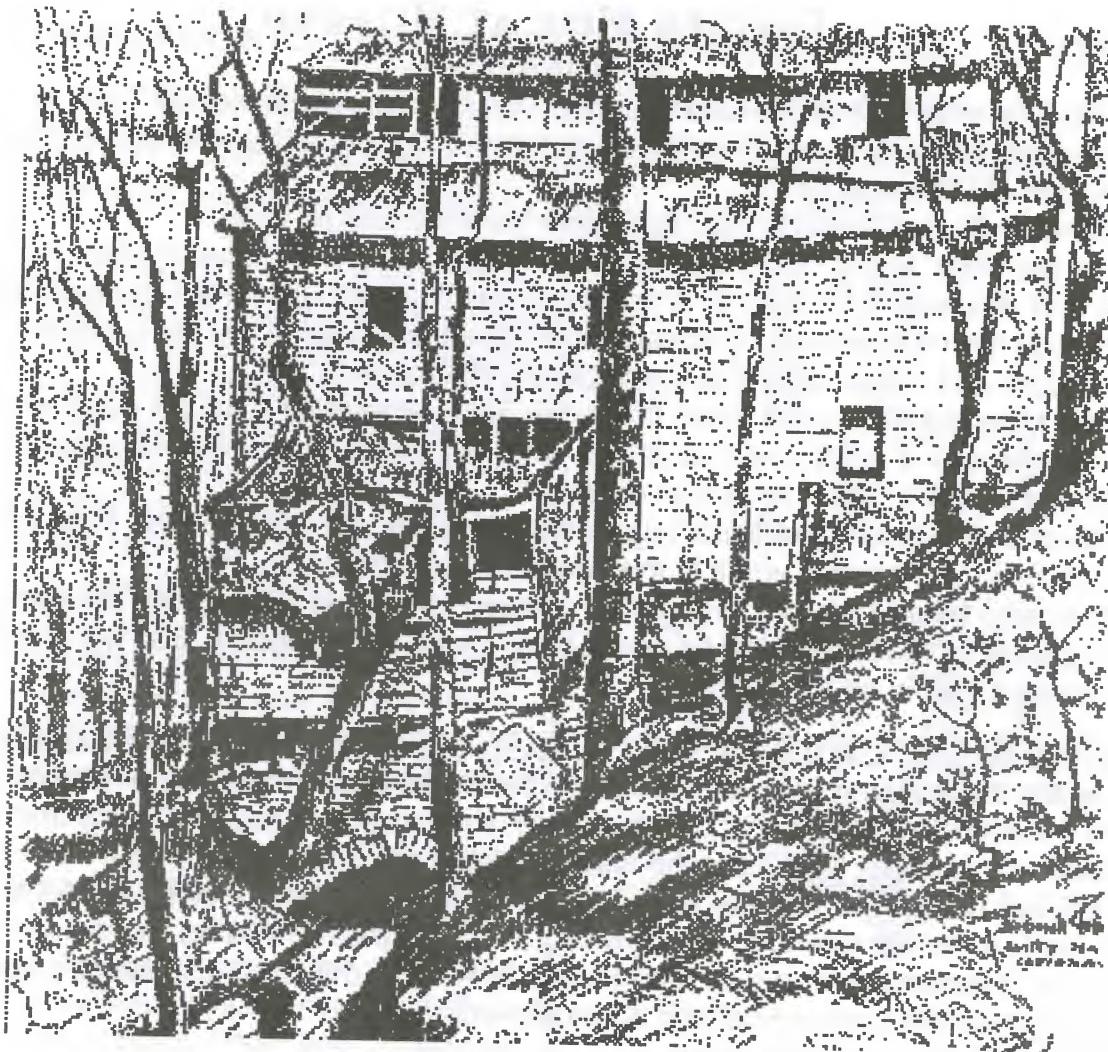
from Come in the Kitchen - 1929

### Famous last words in movies

In the 1947 film, "Dead Reckoning," Humphrey Bogart plays an ex-paratrooper who gets mixed up in murder. In the final scene, he comforts a dying Lizabeth Scott (Mike) by telling her, "It's like going out the jump-door...Don't fight it. Think of all the guys who have gone before." She dies, and Bogey whispers:

- a. You're okay now, Mike. Nobody can hurt you.
- b. Bombs away!
- c. I promise I'll get even for all this.
- D. Geronimo, Mike.

See the correct answer on page 11.



The drawing is taken from a 1934 Indianapolis Star story about the mill.

Critser Mill near Milford rests quietly in a quiet valley of Clifty Creek. It could grind out a hundred bushels in the daylight hours in its day. Of course, this was contingent upon a good supply of water in the mill race. There are many periods when an insufficient head of water will cause delay and slow down production.

These rest periods are necessary in the life of a mill for at such times the stone burrs are reground and surfaced. The burrs, while made from extremely hard stone, become smooth by constant grinding and mash or crush instead of cutting the grains. A tooling or roughing of the stones at short intervals is essential to the production of good flour or feed. The first mill by the Critsers was built in 1838 and was built out of logs.

The building shown in the drawing was built in the fall of 1848 by Henry Critser and operated by him until the close of the Civil War. In 1865 Henry R. Critser took over the mill and in the summer of 1896 Albert "Bert" Sanders purchased an interest. Mr. Sanders ground wheat flour here for 20 years until restricted by Federal regulations. After that he had only occasional runs of meal and feed for his neighbors when there was water in the race.

Last fall members of the Critser family came back to the county for the Milford Critser Mill Festival. Dale Johnson did not get to meet them when they were here but later called one of the family members to let them know that he had some information about the mill their ancestor's built and ran. Dale said the families want to come back this spring when it warms up.

Dale's memory of the mill is on the following page.

## CRITSER MILL AT MILFORD

By Dale Johnson

I told the lady what I know. My Dad bought 50-acres on the north side of Clifty. We had to pass the mill and cross the bridge over the millrace and then cross Clifty Creek to farm it. Betty and I sold it to Joe Hoban of Milford in 1950.

Bert Sanders lived alone after Nannie Critser Sanders died in 1924.

After he got older, about 1935, Nannie's sister Maude and Buck Mounts moved in and painted the house and improved the place. In a year or so Mr. Sanders gave them the farm which runs to the Milford road then the center of Clifty and down the creek west of the mill a quarter mile.

They bought and raised hogs and livestock. Sanders died in 1937.

Next the Mounts had the mill taken down. He planned to build a barn. I don't know, and can't imagine, how he took it apart, because it was extra big poplar timber and clapboard which would have been there yet if it hadn't been torn down.

In a short time Maude and Buck separated and soon Maude sold the farm and moved to Greensburg. She lived her last years in the nursing home by the City Park.

The man who bought the property put up a board fence and gate across the road. If my Dad, who passed away in 1938, had lived he would have forced him to open it. But, not wanting to cause trouble, I found a way in on the east.



Remember the first time you saw the tree on the Courthouse Tower or a picture of it? If you are a native of the county you probably don't, but those who moved to Decatur County from other counties or states will no doubt remember the first sighting of this celebrated sprout.

Bob Mitchell of St. Paul sent the following poem he found while cleaning out some of his files. It was, he said, written in nice long hand (except for the signature that he had some trouble reading). He doesn't remember where it came from or why he had it, and he is curious about the man named Lowell (or Lowett) who wrote the poem.

### *Tree of the Courthouse Tower*

*by Robert Lowell (Lowett?) Muncie, Indiana*

When I was a boy in a country school  
In my old geography book  
There was a picture toward the back  
At which I would often look  
It contained a mystery too deep for me  
A seed by some endower  
Had somehow been placed and grown to a tree  
On the roof of a courthouse tower.

As I studied the picture, from time to time  
I said to myself, "Some day  
I want to see this wonderful tree  
On that courthouse far away."  
Unparalleled in all the world  
No equal has been found  
And people wonder how it lives  
So high above the ground

Time went on. After many years  
My boyish fancies grew  
I stood in Greensburg's courthouse yard  
My school day dream came true  
There it stood, a miracle  
Nature's laws it did defy  
A tree, alive and growing  
Between the earth and sky.

There in bliss and gladness  
While my eyes were upward cast  
I lived again in memory  
My school days of the past  
Then I stood in awe and reverence  
Submissive to the power  
Who could plant a seed and could grow a tree  
Atop a courthouse tower?

## GREAT GRANDPARENTS, GRANDPARENTS AND FATHER OF DALLAS STAR, KEN KERCHEVAL, WERE BORN IN DECATUR COUNTY.

To the right is Dr. G. T. Kercheval as sketched around the turn of the century for the "Just For Fun" booklet.

Unfortunately, I couldn't tie G. T. Kercheval in with Dr. Clarence Fay Kercheval's family but the sketch was just too good to pass up. I'm sure there is some family connection. Dr. C. F. Kercheval is still remembered by a few residents. (His grandson, Ken Kercheval is an actor in Hollywood and visited here in the 1980s. "Ken Kercheval Day" was the subject of a recent column in the Daily News.)

Dr. Clarence Fay's parents, J. Louis and Martha Kercheval, were born in Decatur County but Clarence Fay was born in Rush County while the family lived there for about a year. The next year they moved back to Adams Township.

Clarence Fay taught school for a few years before entering the Illinois Medical College at Chicago and began practicing medicine at Harris City in Decatur County. After a year and a half, he and his wife Nellie McKee of St. Paul moved to Greensburg. Their son, J. Marine Kercheval, also practiced medicine here after graduating from Indiana University School of Medicine. He left in 1926 for a year's specialized study at the Ford Hospital at Detroit, Mich.

When he returned home he and his father moved their practice to Indianapolis in 1927.

Dr. C. G. lived at 3241 N. Capitol Avenue and Dr. J. Marine bought a home about a block from Butler University. Their office was located at 5230 N. College Ave. He served in World War II and when the war ended Dr. J. Marine and his family, along with his parents, moved to Clinton, Ind.

Nellie McKee Kercheval died in June 1946 and was buried in Union Chapel Cemetery in Adams Cemetery. Dr. C. F. Kercheval died just 10 months later in April 1947 and was buried in South Park Cemetery. Dr. J. Marine died in February 1967.



### ••••• Dr. G. T. Kercheval •••••

• "Our doubts are traitors, and make us lose  
• the good we oft might win, by fearing to  
• attempt." — Measure for Measure  
• (quote chosen by - or for - Dr. Kercheval)

### A.& J. Pool

Dealers in Italian & American Marble, Monuments, Head Stones, Tomb Stones which we sell at low prices. Northside Railroad near the Christian Church. Greensburg. (1858)

.....  
Oct. 9, 1857 The Decatur County Moral Society will meet in Greensburg at the usual place on the 2nd Saturday of October, 1857 at 2 p.m. A full attendance is requested, as business of importance will be transacted.

## N D E Little Hoosiers

Little Hoosiers is an Indiana history club sponsored by the Indiana Historical Society. It is open to elementary and high school students. Our club at North Decatur Elementary involves fourth, fifth and sixth grade students.

Over the past four years the club has grown tremendously in size and increased its projects and activities. We have done several community service projects. A group of students spent a Saturday recording information from tombstones to help plot the Mt. Carmel Cemetery. We also have made cornhusk decorations that were taken to two local nursing homes for the Thanksgiving holidays, and Christmas pillows and ornaments which have been taken to the hospital for children visiting the emergency room over the Christmas holidays. James Whitcomb Riley bookmarks were made and delivered to the Greensburg Library to be given out in honor of Riley's birthday.

In many of our meetings we work on pioneer arts and crafts. We have strung cranberries and made pioneer decorations for the NDE teachers' Christmas breakfast, and decorated a display case in our building with pioneer Christmas crafts, including tin punch. In the North Decatur Elementary front hallway hang two Indiana quilts and a collection of rag rugs created by our Little Hoosiers. These projects were done at our meetings, with assistance from several parents. We have also made and played pioneer games, made Indiana birthday cards to display in December, and enjoyed skits and poems performed by some of our Little Hoosiers.

Field trips are a big part of our year and our Little Hoosiers have traveled to the Levi Coffin House in Fountain City, the Huddleston House on Highway 40, Corydon, Conner Prairie for the Christmas Walk, Squire Boone Caverns, and the log cabin home of Bill and Gladys Pike at St. Paul.

Whenever possible, we have attended the Little Hoosier Conventions in the spring. Our members have always submitted contest entries and we have won several prizes. Last year our interpretive exhibit won first place, and one of our members received outstanding member recognition. Our club was proud to be recognized with the Director's Award.

This year we have had a money making project and will be donating some money to the Greensburg Cheer Fund and a larger amount to the Decatur County Historical Society's Museum. The museum will be using the money to help preserve Decatur County History through photographs and documents. Remaining funds will help defray costs to the club of craft projects, speakers, and upcoming field trips.

The club members feel we are an important contributing part of our school educational program.

(Editor's Note: The Historical Society members also believe the Little Hoosiers are making an important contribution. Please keep us informed about your activities and interests.)

Roy Robbins, member and former resident of Decatur County sent a brochure from the

11th Annual Reunion of the Greensburg Power of the Past. Robbins wrote about the 1936 John Deere B tractor that his father, Courtland C. Robbins, bought in Greensburg. The brochure reproduced a picture with Robbins as an 8 year old on the tractor. Robbins wrote, "Corbett & Craig was the John Deere dealer on Main Street in Greensburg. I remember the cold day my father and I, in our 1928 Chevrolet, went there to make the final decision on buying the tractor. It was the only one on the showroom floor. We had made many trips to Westport to look at an F 12 Farmall. They were both about the same price. Money was very hard to get in the 30s.

In 1953 my father passed away. This tractor sat in the barn until 1990. We pulled it out then and Tom Striecker restored it. It has never had an owner out of the family. It is owned now by my son Greg Robbins and his family, and will be in the family for years to come. Since 1936 it has never been out of Decatur County."

## Genealogy

The following named men of Adams and Clay township have passed the three score and ten milestone of life according to sexennial census which was taken again this year. The names and ages of women are not required. The list below was furnished by Russell Wilhoit and were taken from the July 22, 1937 issue of The Greensburg Daily News Other townships will be in later issues.

### **Clinton Township**

William Brunker, 82  
 John Batty, 70  
 Theodore Crume, 85  
 John A. Carr, 70  
 Henry Raver, 70  
 Joseph Darringer, 74  
 William Emrick, 79  
 John Griswell, 75  
 William Harding, 72  
 Jacob Hoover, 74  
 William Harrell, 80  
 Daniel Innis, 85  
 Grant G. Johnson, 73  
 Jacob Manby, 73  
 S. V. Pleak, 80  
 William Palmer, 77  
 David Ramer, 70  
 Emer Ruddell, 75  
 Robert Ramer, 75  
 John Spillman, 79  
 Levi Sawyers, 71  
 Elmer Sefton, 71  
 John Troutman, 75  
 Luke Terhune, 94  
 Theodore Vordie, 73  
 Samuel Weir, 86

### **Adams Township**

Daniel Apple, 70  
 John Bowman, 70  
 Frank Brown, 70  
 Warren Brooks, 70  
 J. W. Bailey, 77  
 John T. Brooks, 72  
 Thomas Coy, 74  
 John Coy, 78  
 Emmett Clark, 72  
 James H. Colestock, 81  
 James Coy, 84  
 E. E. Crippen, 73  
 George Connall, 83  
 Charles O. Cline, 75  
 John Doggett, 73  
 Rasty Dorell, 73  
 C. W. Davis, 77  
 A. F. Eubank, 74  
 Joseph Eck, 88  
 C. P. Freeland, 75  
 Augustus Goyert, 72  
 Sanford Halloren, 71  
 Edward J. Huffman, 77  
 Oliver Johnston, 71  
 Rury Kelley, 76  
 John Keith, 78

Robert Kirby, 75

George F. King, 75

L. E. Lines, 72

Robert Lacey, 74

James Leffler, 76

Joseph Lindner, 71

Ben F. Miller, 71

Lee Morrison, 70

A. B. Mulroy, 77

Nathan Greenberry, 81

Will R. Pleak, 84

James H. Parker, 84

Isaac Redington, 79

Albert Robertson, 77

John E. Robbins, 73

Warren Robertson, 82

Ed Robertson, 74

William M. Roberts, 80

William Scudder, 76

Anda Swango, 79

Edward Sconn, 71

Frank Shields, 70

James Townsend, 70

John W. Tremain, 86

Charles Templeton, 77

J. T. Teitstort, 77

George C. Walker, 74

Francis M. Wiley, 73

### **Tri County Genealogy Society**

The Tri-County Genealogical Society meets at 7 p.m. in the Batesville Library on the second Wednesday of every month. Programs vary each month. Recent programs have been: the German churches in this area, what resources are available in the Cincinnati Public Library, trips to Germany and France and we have had many speakers, mostly on genealogy. This

month we will be have two women from Jennings County who will tell us what can be found in the Jennings County Library for research and what programs their Genealogical Society had in the past. The approximately 30 people at every meeting come from Greensburg, Brookville, Batesville, Osgood, Columbus and Indianapolis. The Tri County Genealogical Society, covers Franklin, Decatur and Ripley counties. I

—Russell Wilhoit

## State News

### American Cabaret Theatre - March 11

A brunch at 12:30 p.m. in the upper ballroom of the Athenaeum, followed by Noel Coward and Cole Porter at the American Cabaret Theatre in Indianapolis featuring the talented ACT troupe performing the best of Cole's stage and screen masterpieces and Noel's biting parodies.

Tickets are \$72 (\$64.50 IHS members). Deadline for reservations is March 1. To request tickets, please call (317) 234-1313.

### Discovering Indiana Women's Voices - March 10 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

A celebration of the accomplishments of Indiana women, this conference is sponsored by the Indiana Historical Society and the Indiana Women's History Archives and will feature sessions on recording and writing about women's lives, collecting and preserving women's history, searching for women's history in genealogical records, improving intergenerational communication, and finding history sources. March 10 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan Shipps, professor emeritus of history at IUPUI, and a nationally known expert on Mormonism, will be the keynote speaker. Following the conference, the History Market will host a book-signing showcasing authors of books relating to women's history. Registration for the conference is \$20 for adults and \$5 for students. To register, please contact Beth Van Vorst at (317) 253-9011.

### Spring Break Family Activities

March 27, 29 and 31 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Also, April 3, 5 and 7 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. FREE!

Run away to the circus during spring break and enjoy crafts, stories and demonstrations for all ages.

**Life's A Circus: Hands-on History - June 22 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. FREE!**

Kids can take a closer look at Indiana's circus history through numerous interactive activities related to the IHS exhibition, Life in a Three-Ring Circus.

### Circus Bus Tour to Peru, Indiana - June 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Spend a day in the life of the circus as you tour the International Circus Hall of Fame including a circus parade, performances under the big top, an up-close look at the circus animals, clown magic and more. Lunch included. For more information, including prices, call Eadie Barrie at (317) 233-0588.

### Sound Effects - Now through February 18, 2001

Selected entries from the Indiana Historical Society's annual photography contest. These unusual photographs document sounds found in Indiana including natural, industrial, manmade, musical or urban or other colorful sounds that define the unique areas of the state's 92 counties. Student, amateur and professional categories are represented in the exhibit, which includes brief essays by entrants.

### A Working Life - May 12, 2001 through January 6, 2002

Meet three remarkable Hoosiers whose work and lives add to the rich history of art and craft in Indiana. Through innovation, hard work, dedication, perseverance, creative effort and ambition, each influenced the course of local, regional, and national history. The exhibition includes Marie Webster quilts, kits, patterns and personal items; Portia Sperry manuscripts, the doll "Abigail" and other items; Harry E. Wood arts and crafts furniture and coppersmithing tools; along with photographs and interactives for people of all ages.

### Apron Strings: Ties to the Past - May 12, 2001 through December 2, 2001

Has any article of clothing been more taken for granted than the apron? Using examples dating from the late 1800s through the present, this exhibition presents a fascinating reevaluation of this everyday garb. An Exhibits USA traveling exhibition -- which runs in conjunction with A Working Life -- includes 100 aprons along with a photo essay from the Indiana Historical Society collections depicting Hoosiers at work.

**Questions?**

The following questions were found in the February 1961 Bulletin. The answers were not included. Perhaps members will send the answers for the next Bulletin? Your editor knows the answer to only two - and that's a maybe...

1. Who was the first County Recorder to use the typewriter in recording deeds and when?
2. Greensburg had macadam streets long before it had paved streets. When, where and what materials were used for the first pavement?
3. The names - Kryl, Innes, Vitale, Bachman and Thaviu have what in common as concerns Greensburg after 1911?
4. Which two of the following crops have been grown in Decatur County - cranberries, cotton, flax, hemp or rice?
5. Greensburg, with its elevation of 971, is 21 feet higher than Pleak's Hill. The highest point in the county has an elevation of 1097. Where is it?

**Did you know?**

The longest one-syllable word in the English language is "screeched."

When Grandpa went past seventy  
He called it "borrowed time."  
And thanked the Lord for mercy,  
And thought it very fine.

Now his grandson passes ninety  
But in a car - that's funny.  
He'll never live on "borrowed time"  
But does on borrowed money.

.....

Here's to each man's secret wish  
to outwit race horses

women

and fish

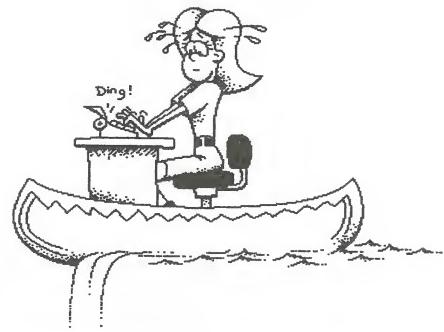


From the pen of the mystery poet.



**What Bogie said to Lizabeth,**  
**Correct answer is D..**

items for	<u>NOTICE</u>
	<u>Deadline</u>
B	March 15, 2001
U	June 15, 2001
L	Sept. 15, 2000
L	Dec. 15, 2000
E	<u>Date mailed</u>
T	April 30, 2001
I	July 30, 2001
N	Oct. 30, 2000
	Jan. 30, 2001



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Historical Society of Decatur County, Inc.

P.O. Box 163 Greensburg, IN 47240

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**MEMORIALS**

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COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

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**Museum:**

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Displays- Ginny Garvey, Ruth Cash, Helen Hamilton

Facilities Manager - Russell Wilhoit

Volunteers - Helen Hamilton

Publicity: Jennifer McNealy, Wendy Russell

**Program:** Joe Westhafer, Ruth Dorrel, Jennifer McNealy, Margaret Herbert

**MUSEUM CURATOR**

Russell Wilhoit - 663-8290

**SOCIETY'S AGENT**

William H. Robbins

**COUNTY GENEALOGISTS**

Irene Kreiger, 23184 Pocket Rd., Batesville, IN 47006

Russell Wilhoit, 328 N. Jackson, Greensburg, IN 47240

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF  
 DECATUR COUNTY, INC.  
 P.O. BOX 163  
 GREENSBURG, IN 47240

Nonprofit Org.  
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Diana Springmier  
 1188 E CR 100 N  
 Greensburg IN 47240,

# THE BULLETIN

## THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Vol. 7 No. 15

August 2001

Greensburg, Indiana

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

**September 8 – in the Westport Community Building**

**George Cann** will discuss Westport and southern Decatur County history immediately following the Westport BBQ parade.

**September 15 – at the Greensburg Public Library.**

Immediately after the Tree City Fall Festival Parade Saturday, Sept. 15, **Russell Wilhoit** will speak about his postcard and Greensburg memorabilia collections.

**November 13 – at 7 p.m. at the Greensburg Public**

**Library.** **Diane Coon** will present "Tracing the Footsteps of the Underground Railroad in Decatur County and Southeastern Indiana." Diane is a researcher of the Underground Railroad and presented an outstanding program for the Ripley County Historical Society earlier this year.



If you have an idea for a future program or are knowledgeable about a local historical topic and would like to share your information with others, please telephone Charity Mitchell at 663-5141 or Jennifer McNealy at 663-2832.

**Editor's note:** Might be a good idea if we all put the above dates on our calendars now. Believe me, these are excellent programs and Diane Coon's program about the Underground Railroad is as good as it gets about this subject. Don't miss it!

### IN THIS ISSUE:

page 2: Presidential Ponderings, society news from President Jennifer McNealy.

page 3: cont' and mystery picture

Page 4: Museum News by Diana Springmier

Page 5: Bob Mitchell's directions to St. Paul

Page 6 Men of Jackson and Sandcreek townships who have passed the three score and ten milestone of life

Page 7:Greensburg High School picture and Grandma's Recipe for Wash Day

Page 8:Picture of one of our founders, Mrs. Hester Alley Porter and Dr. Edward A. Porter, and news about Tri-County Genealogical Society newsletter

Page 9: Not So Long Ago (Spring 1951)

Page 10: Reprint from 1962 Bulletin in which Lou Porter writes of the beginning of the 20th Century

Page 11: Committee chairs, Mystery poet, a little trivia and deadlines for submitting Bulletin material.

Page 12:Officers, directors, names and addresses of genealogists, historian and editor.

You will see a little change in The Bulletin this time. The type is generally larger, pictures are included, and there seems to be a little less "clutter." I would appreciate it if you would let me know what you would like in The Bulletin and whether this slight change is to your liking.

Thanks, Pat

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY



### PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

Summer is in full swing now and so is your Historical Society! In addition to the wonderful exhibits planned for the Museum and continuing house maintenance, your Society board has been working diligently to create new programs and projects to promote the preservation and understanding of Decatur County history and its significance.

Charity Mitchell has planned an enlightening series of county history presentations in conjunction with some of the fall events held annually. On September 8, George Cann will discuss Westport and southern Decatur County history in the Westport Community Building immediately following the Westport BBQ parade.

After the Tree City Fall Festival Parade on Saturday, September 15, Russell Wilhoit will speak about his postcard and Greensburg memorabilia collections at the Greensburg Public Library. "Tracing the Footsteps of the Underground Railroad in Decatur County and Southeastern Indiana" is the title of the program schedule for November 13, beginning at 7 p.m. Diane Coon, a researcher of the Underground Railroad, will conduct this discussion at the Greensburg Public Library.

Along with the above-mentioned events, Charity has more seminars planned, but is not yet ready to release the details. I encourage everyone to look for updated information about all of these sessions in future Bulletin issues, as well as local media outlets. If you have any idea for a future program or are knowledgeable about a local historical topic and would like to share your information with others, please telephone Charity at 663-5141 or me at 663-2832...we'd greatly appreciate any input from our members.

In addition to the programs being scheduled for members of the Society and the community, an effort is being undertaken to identify, collect, and preserve local history resources. Your Board of Directors is seeking your assistance with this endeavor. Anyone with written or photographic history resources, such as family pictures, letters, or journals, that they would be willing to donate to the Society is asked to deliver them to me at the Greensburg/Decatur County Chamber of Commerce office, 325 West Main, Ste. 2, Greensburg from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. On Saturdays and Sundays, items may be brought to the Museum at 222 N. Franklin Street, Greensburg from 1 to 4 p.m.

We are trying to assemble a core list of historical archives and contacts. If you would like to share the information you have but are not yet ready to donate it to the Society, we want you to know that we would appreciate any photocopies that you wish to share with information about who owns the originals.

Because the Society represents all of Decatur County, we are also trying to ascertain the location of historical resources throughout the county. It has come to our attention that many fire departments and community centers now house area information. We are seeking any information about what materials are being stored where and how those interested may access these historic materials for viewing and/or use. Anyone wishing to share his or her knowledge about these items is asked to contact Charity Mitchell at 663-5141 or Russell Wilhoit at 663-8290.

Wow! Exhibits at the Museum, historical presentations throughout the county, annual excursions for members, historical Christmas ornaments, creation and preservation of local resources, and much more on the horizon! The Historical Society of Decatur County has certainly advanced its efforts in the past decade.

I am so thankful and proud to be a member of the Society. It is comforting to know that this stable organization exists to collect, preserve, research, and interpret the heritage of Decatur County, as well as to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of the county's history, art and natural environment. The most exciting thought, however, is how many wonderful things are to come in the Society's future!

*Jennifer McNealy*



Is this a picture of the school building in New Point or Milford? Or perhaps Kingston?

# Museum News

By Diana Springmier

The 2001 spring doll exhibit concluded after visitors, many Decatur County/Greensburg fourth grade students on an annual museum field trip, viewed over 500 dolls of all sizes, nationalities, and compositions. The dolls were on loan from many of you, Society members, and community families who went to their attics and guestrooms, reviewing acquaintances with their best childhood friends. Overhearing comments from viewers, the dolls and their furnishings emitted nostalgia of a time when children spent their playing time with their dolls - a time before TV and computer games occupied one's free time.

As the exhibit was taken down, the rooms seemed suddenly empty following ten weeks of these "little people" holding court, but it was very soon transformed into a sea of red, white, and blue. Helen Hamilton had placed her decorated tree with antique patriotic ornaments in the north parlor on the heels of display chairman Ginny Garvey, returning the dolls to their homes. In fact, Ginny is looking for the owner of a royal blue felt doll hat with a sizeable white feather and a doll's forearm that should be returned to its owner.

During the last two weeks of the opening display and through July 4th, Russell Wilhoit's Memorial Day exhibit was reminding many of Decatur County's involvement in past wars. There has been more than one avenue to share our history this spring and summer.

The Fourth of July Parade again passed 222 North Franklin Street, and many found the lawn and museum's air-conditioned rooms - upstairs just this spring - a gathering place for visiting with family and friends as well as having a cup of lemonade on the lawn. The backyard kitchen herb garden, planted and tidied up by Lois Laskowski, a member of the National Herb Society, was on the Give-Un-Take 2001 Spring Garden Tour. Viewing this compact, well-planned garden with its miniature clay pot markers was a learning experience for those on the tour and is being enjoyed by museum guests throughout the summer.

The museum grounds are showing the dedication of volunteers who have been giving of their time and effort throughout the spring and summer. Carol Pumphrey again helped in planting the front yard gardens, David Ricke trimmed, John Stewart stopped by and sprayed weeds, Stan Saler and his dad Jim have been mowing and trimming, and Ed Diewert, a newly appointed Society Board member, has pitched in and, among other chores, has dug out a covered stone path from the well pump to the garage.

With all the interest in the backyard, a fall box picnic lunch on the lawn is in the plans for the museum's volunteers. Helen Hamilton and charity Mitchell will co-chair this event.

In conjunction with the August Power of the Past at the Decatur County Fairgrounds, the museum will present a smaller rendition of the farm equipment you could see at the fair-grounds. If anyone has a toy tractor or machinery collection or any farm-related items call Ginny at 663-2997.

Come see us at 222 North Franklin for a step into the past.

*Diana*

Mitchell recently wrote: Pat, You put out a good Bulletin – not easy as I know. I put out a weekly sheet for the St. Paul Kiwanis for 40 years and, though much smaller, I know how hard it is.

About the towns: Sardinia was known as Big Creek and, I presume was a carry-over from the Indians. St. Maurice? I don't know.

I did a little piece some time ago using the names of towns in Indiana to locate St. Paul (St. Paul, of course, was originally "Paul Town." (Thanks Bob, for the compliment and for the piece below. Your contributions add a lot to the Bulletin. Keep 'em coming. Bulletin editor)

## St. Paul is WHERE?????

*By Bob Mitchell*

Many times we "Blasters" are asked, "Where is St. Paul?"

Well, I have figured out a direction system that anyone can follow.

You know Nebraska? Well, we are northwest of that. We are also northeast of Georgia and east of Nevada.

We are also east of Poland and Brazil but south of Palestine and Mexico. Northeast of Holland, Denmark and Scotland but southeast of Tangier, Cairo and Norway. That puts it northwest of Switzerland and China and southwest of Chili and Cuba.

If you know your cities better than States and Countries, you will find us northeast of Eureka, Washington and Troy, Fairbanks, Geneva, Rome and Cincinnati but southeast of London, Buffalo, Reno, Warsaw, Shanghai and West Point. St. Paul is northwest of Vienna, Versailles, Wilmington, Dover, Paris, Aberdeen and Alamo and southwest of Albany, Moscow, Boston, Waterloo, Wheeling, Topeka, Alexandria, Yorktown, Williamsburg, Cadiz and Dublin. It is west of Peoria and Hamburg but east of Trafalgar, north of

Houston and Utica and south of Syracuse, Galveston, Akron, Atlanta, Miami and Sidney.

If you prefer Biblical clues, St. Paul is east of Samaria and Bethany, south of Carthage and Athens, but north of Temple. It is northeast of Mount Tabor, Nineveh and Mt. Olive and southeast of Hebron and Antioch. It is northwest of Zenas, Canaan, Sparta, Mount Sinai, Smyrna and Bethlehem, but southwest of Gilead, Goshen, Palestine, Mt. Zion, Eden and Antioch. (Yes, another Antioch.)

As for distances from places you might know, St. Paul is seven miles from Moscow or 35 miles from Gnaw Bone, 28 miles from Peoga and 29 miles from Fruitdale. Pike's Peak is only 38 miles away. If you want to go to Hovey from St. Paul you would go 175 miles southwest.

Now. Everybody knows where St. Paul is. Isn't that easy?

Bob Mitchell

The following named men of Sandcreek and Jackson townships have passed the three score and ten milestone of life according to sextennial census which was taken again this year.

The names and ages of women were not required. Taken from Greensburg Daily News, Thursday, July 22, 1937

Submitted by Russell Wilhoit, Greensburg.

The names of Clinton, and Adams were in the January Bulletin and the names of Fugit, Saltcreek and Clay townships were in the April issue.

**JACKSON**

**TOWNSHIP**

John Bowen, 86  
W. E. Beasley, 81  
Joseph A. Burns, 75  
Frank Bennett, 73  
John W. Crise, 79  
O. G. Cramp, 85  
W. J. Cooper, 74  
T. E. Castor, 72  
John H. Deniston, 74  
William J. Deniston, 72  
James Deniston, 72  
John S. Emly, 71  
W. S. Fear, 76  
John Forman, 80  
James S. Gaston, 78  
William Golay, 72  
William Hubbard, 70  
Martin Hill, 88  
Ed A. Johnson, 74  
C. E. Johnson, 72  
Frank W. Lawson, 73  
W. E. Moore, 70  
Jiles J. Milholland, 88  
Jesse McMellan, 83  
Frank Owens, 83  
Henry Purvis, 74  
Horace Shafer, 81  
Frank Snook, 76  
W. F. Smith, 80  
Smith Thompson, 80  
John O. Thomas, 71  
James T. Talkington, 82  
William T. Vanest, 92  
John H. Woodruff, 74  
A. W. Wolf, 82

**Sandcreek**

**Township**

Seth Burgess, 76  
Charles L. Bridges, 81  
Jacob Biehl, 79  
James J. Braden, 74  
J. M. Cann, 84  
James Corya, 70  
J. E. Davis, 70  
E. G. Davis, 72  
George W. Davis, 78  
John L. Davis, 75  
A. Duckworth, 70  
P. N. Elliott, 73  
Richard Fowler, 80  
Sanford Grayson, 76  
J. H. Gibson, 71  
George Golay, 73  
Charles A. Hearn, 76  
Silas Hudson, 85  
Lafe Hall, 70  
William Hughes, 79  
J. N. Jerman, 74  
Howard Jenkins, 77  
S. B. Jaggers, 76  
E. A. Johnson, 74  
George Keith, 79  
John N. Keith, 82  
Jacob Knarr, 74  
Stephen D. Layton, 76  
E. E. Logan, 78  
Isom Low, 72  
Frank Manuel, 71  
Willis Maple, 86  
John Melloy, 72

George W. Moor, 83

Edward McDonald, 70

George C. Nicholson, 70

J. C. Nicholson, 76

John J. Parker, 75

William Puttorff, 80

Henry Pool, 76

U. S. Parker, 70

Joe Parker, 73

William Ricketts, 73

C. C. Robbins, 76

John E. Robbins, 75

Albert Ricketts, 70

William Smith, 85

Winn Sanders, 75

Lee Spencer, 74

Jacob Stiegerwald, 70

Charles W. Swope, 77

Frank Sharp, 84

H. M. Sharp, 81

Francis Scripture, 70

Frank Tyner, 70

Thomas Tumilty, 70

M. B. Taylor, 78

Alonzo Tower, 70

John W. Vaughn, 73

Ben R. Voiles, 70

A. H. Vaughn, 71

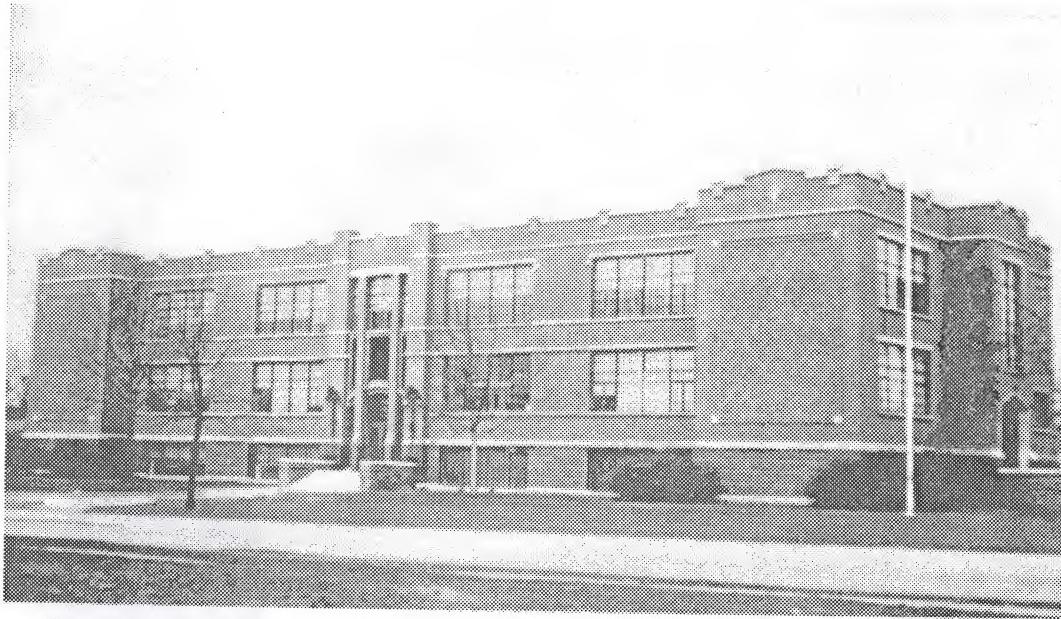
Oscar Wasson, 75

George Wainscott, 76

James J. Wright, 74

Edward Whalen, 71

James A. Wood, 80



Greensburg High School Greensburg, Ind.

Aultman Studio

A good many members of the Society graduated from the Greensburg High School pictured above. Its closing this year has sparked a good many memories of the fine old building. The photo was taken by Aultman Studio.

### Grandma's Recipe For Washing

This is an authentic washday receipt in its orginal spelling, as it was written out for a bride three generations ago. Hang it up in your laundry room and you'll count your blessings as you do your wash.

1. Bild a fire in back yard to heet kettle of rainwater.
2. Set tubs so smoke won't blow in eyes if wind is pert.
3. Shave on hole cake soup in bilin water.
4. sort things, make 3 piles.
- 1 pile white, 1 pile cullord, 1 pile work briches and rags.
5. stur flour in cold water to smooth, then thin down with bilin water.
6. rub dirty spots on board scrub hard. then bile.  
run cullard but don't bile-just rench and starch.
7. take white things out of kettle with broom stick handle, then rench.  
Blew and starch.
8. spred tee towells on grass.
9. hang old rags on fence.
10. pore rench water on flower bed.
11. scrub porch with the hot soapy water.
12. turn tub upside down.
- 13 go put on clean dress, smooth hair with side combs. Brew a cup of tea.  
Set and rest a spell. Rock a spell and count blessins.

This is from an old cook book.

### Dr. and Mrs. Porter

Many members will remember the much beloved couple pictured at right.

Dr. Edward A. and Hester Alley Porter of Westport are holding the certificates given to them by the Decatur County Extension Committee. They were among the many honors received by the couple during their lifetime.

Dr. Porter practiced medicine here for 62 years. Mrs. Porter was one of the founders of the 1959 Historical Society of Decatur County. Both are descendants of Revolutionary War veterans. Mrs. Porter's Ewing and Alley ancestors were pioneers in Decatur County.



### Tri-County Genealogical Society

The address for the Society is: P.O. Box 118, Batesville, IN 47006-0118. This organization serves Decatur, Franklin and Ripley counties and meets at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month except December. The meetings are held in the Batesville Public Library at 131 N. Walnut St., Batesville.

The president and the editor of the Tri-County Newsletter, which is published quarterly, is Irene Krieger who is also a member of the Decatur County Historical Society. The newsletter alone is well worth the \$10 membership fee.

In the April-June issue there is listed a member who can translate German to English. Karin Meier-Rottmann (4718 Granite Court/ Indian Trail, NC 28079-9454) was born and raised in Germany and can translate Suetterlin script. You can call or fax her at 704-882-4174 or email her at kawol@email.msn.com. Many of our ancestors came from Germany, their headstones are written in German, and families find letters and documents written in German. I would think Karin is quite busy.

Irene also prints the email addresses of Tri-County members. About 100 addresses are listed.

Naturally, the newsletter has many queries from those searching for information about ancestors. In the current issue there are 31 inquiries each with at least one name and some with several. One inquirer listed 24 names.

## NOT SO LONG AGO SPRING 1951

The sale of Mr. G's Candy Kitchen, on the north-east corner of the square, by Roy Gelarden to Mr. and Mrs. Max Clifton is in process of completion. The building is owned by John Cosmas, who founded the business here in 1910 and operated it until he retired in February 1946. (May 15, 1951)

---

President Truman today removed General Douglas MacArthur from all his Far East commands and House Minority Leader Martin (R) Mass. announced that MacArthur had agreed by telephone to appear before a joint session of Congress. (April 11, 1951)

---

The Home Study Circle of the Presbyterian Church met Tuesday evening at the home of Mrs. Arthur Siefker on North Broadway with Mrs. Elmer Kixmiller assisting.

Devotions were given by Mrs. Roy Beeson. The business session was conducted by Mrs. John Wickstead.

The program was in charge of Mrs. Allen Hanna. (May 1951)

---

Indianapolis, May 28, 1951

The fastest drivers at the Motor Speedway today were Chet Miller 135.798 mph, Bob Ball 134.098, Joe James 133.919, Andy Linden 132.227, Duke Densmore 131.974 and Bill Mackey 131.473.

---

Mrs. Minnie Shazer left Sunday evening to spend a few days with Miss Shirley and Tommy Shazer. (May 1951)

---

Cleat Owens and Clint Scripture of near Letts were drilling a water well on the Earl Woodward property on the east side of Greensburg.

---

Brig. General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller is back home in Washington for leave and reassignment.

Earlier at a new conference, the Asst. Commandant of the Marine 1st Division "stuck

out his chin," and not for kisses, when he said women should be taken out of the services and then risked the wrath of the WCTU by urging beer and liquor for fighting men to give them a "lift." (May 25, 1951)

---

The Associate Chapter of Tri Kappa was entertained at the home of Mrs. Perry Elliott at Burney. A business session was in order in which Mrs. Earl Lashbrook reported on the recent state convention.

---

Mothers of the Enochsburg parish were entertained at the May NCCW meeting at Enochsburg. Pictures of the 1st solemn communicants and also the May crowing were shown by the Rev. Ambrose Schneider. Mrs. Adeline Raver, president, urged members to bring used clothing to the next meeting for home missions. The committee for June is Mrs. Mark Koehne, Mrs. Vincent Trenkamp and Mrs. Robert Martin and daughter.

---

The American Butter Institute assured housewives today of an ample supply of butter this year unless price ceilings and the resultant black market interfere with production.

---

At the Psi Iota Xi meeting "Constitutional Night" was observed by Sigma Chapter with Mrs. Walter B. Lowe as hostess. Mrs. Stanley Harroll, president, and Mrs. Victoria Woolverton reported on a meeting they attended at Riley Hospital.

Two former Sigma members, Mrs. Howard Balch and Mrs. Marjorie Elliott Dellacamp, will become charter members of a new chapter in Crawfordsville. Mrs. Robert Roper will be chairman of the June meeting at the Kopper Kettle.

---

The Merrymakers Home Ec Club will meet Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. James Lawson for a lampshade lesson.

## I Remember

Recollections of a boy's life in a small town during the first 12 years of the 20th Century.

*by Lou Porter*

(Editor's note: This is a reprint of part of an article by Lou Porter in the February 23, 1962 Bulletin. Some of the second paragraph seemed especially appropriate in view of our reasonably recent turn of a century.)

My family were Hoosiers and I was born and reared in Greensburg, Indiana, a small County seat town of approximately 6500 souls. As far as I know, the population has not changed to any appreciable extent. There were four of us, Dad and Mother, brother Bob and myself and we lived in a large, old brick home of twelve rooms, with high ceilings and spacious halls. There was a large back yard, orchard like with trees of all description and a giant vegetable garden of great dimensions. Our house, typical of the period, had rooms of vast extent and area all of the five of the five bedrooms upstairs carried ample closet space. My mother did not believe in "shutting off" rooms in cold weather so we lived in every room in the big home all year-round. Built shortly before the War between the States, the structure was as secure as a fortress with walls two feet thick. Of course, this house still stands, people continue to live in it and people will still be living in it 200 years from now.

One of my earliest recollections is framed in memory of the year 1898 when the Spanish-American War was fought. It was of short duration and not too many casualties but I can still hear my Aunt singing the war song of their period "Just Break The News To Mother." When the year 1900 arrived, neighbors debated whether this was the final year of the 19th Century or the 1st year of the 20th Century. One September afternoon in 1901 some neighborhood youngsters along with my brother Bob and I were playing n the back yard when a newsboy came shouting up the street that President McKinley had been shot while attending the Pan American Exposition i Buffalo, New York. News traveled very slowly in those days and word of this tragedy did not reach our town until an "extra" edition of "The Indianapolis News" had arrived by the Interurban traction line. There were no busses, trucks or motor cars and few telephones. It was still the horse and buggy era and the livery stable was the news center of the community.

There was a soap widely advertised called "Sapolio," a patent medicine "Tanlac" which was supposed to cure most ailments and of course, every paper carried an ad about "Lydia E. Pinkham." Quinine and calomel and castor oil were the standard medications for boys and girls.

School teachers did not spare the rod (or the 15 inch ruler) and every cloak room in the elementary schools closeted three or four sturdy sticks of hickory that were replaced at frequent intervals.

**Committee Chairs**

Budget, Ruth Dorrel  
 Finance, Dan Anderson  
 Ornaments, Tony Owens  
 Publicity, Melanie Maxwell and Wendy Russell  
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   Jennifer McNealy, Chair  
   Joe Westhafer, Excursions  
   Russell Wilhoit, Genealogy/Research  
   Charity Mitchell, Seminars/Presentations  
 Museum and Collections Director, Diana Springmier  
 Acquisitions, Ruth Cash  
 Displays, Ginny Garvey  
 Volunteers, Helen Hamilton  
 Maintenance, Ed Deiwert  
 Agricultural Museum, Gene McCoy

**BULLETIN****DEADLINES**

The dates below are when items for The Bulletin should be received by the editor who is always grateful to have members submit material.

**March 15, 2002**

**June 15, 2002**

**Sept. 15, 2001**

**Dec. 15, 2001**

**ARE ALL CHURCH COMMITTEES  
JUST LIKE OURS?  
KEEPING MINUTES  
BUT WASTING HOURS?**  
from the mystery poet

1. How long is the CAMPTOWN RACETRACK?
2. Who played STEVE CANYON on television?
3. Where did CARNATION Evaporated Milk come from?
4. Who played HOPALONG CASSIDY's sidekick in the television series?
5. What was the name of THE CISCO KID's horse? and Who played Pancho on television?
6. Who was WALLY COX's elderly female colleague in the Mr. Peepers series?
7. What COMICS were *good* comics?

If your dues are due please use this form to send them to the address below.

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COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

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Vice Pres..... Ruth Cash  
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**Board of Directors**

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Ginny Garvey  
Helen Hamilton  
Ed Deiwert  
David Miers  
Diana Springmier  
Van Batterton at large

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William H. Robbins

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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Vol. 7 No. 16

October 2001

Greensburg, Indiana

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

November 13 – at 7 p.m.

at the Greensburg Public Library, Diane Coon will present "Tracing the Footsteps of the Underground Railroad in Decatur County and Southeastern Indiana." Please don't miss this.

### NEWS BULLETIN!!

Ornament Chairman Tony Owens announced that the board has approved the 2002 Ornament. It will depict the old railway depot that was behind Trackside, on the west side of Greensburg. Tony said there was a last minute change but the keepsake should be ready around Thanksgiving. Watch for notice. They will be available at Margaret Tremain Furniture and both LoBill locations.

December 9 - from 1-4 p.m.

Put the annual Christmas Open House on your calendar. A Christmas Heritage: A Salute to the Traditions of Christmas will be celebrated December 9 from 1 to 4 p.m. throughout the museum. Victorian toys, Williamsburg wreaths on porch windows, the 1920s Christmas village, special music and the Pike's bread pudding with warm butter sauce will be waiting for you as you celebrate the holiday with friends and family.

"Your board members are beginning to prepare for 2002 activities. Those with suggestions for potential exhibits, seminars, or other efforts that the board should be considering as we move into the upcoming year are asked to forward those to me via phone at 663-3947 or via email at mcnealy92@hotmail.com."

*President Jennifer McNealy*

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Richard Foley

William and Vera Barkley, New Palestine

Nancy Buchanan, Indianapolis

George Hillenbrand II, Batesville

A special WELCOME to TERRI ANNE

BLANTON, our new publicity Chairperson.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

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page 3 - Museum News

page 4 - Decatur County and the Presidential election of 1860

page 5 - continued

page 6 - Dick Wolfsie needs our help

page 7 - Fifty years ago

page 8 - Eagles lodge picture, Donations to the society, "May in Indiana" by Bob Mitchell

page 9 - Star Barn picture, "That Nasty Tobacco"

page 10 - Old East End School picture being demolished, Depression era, Tri County Genealogy

page 11 - Committee chairs, recipes, deadlines, mystery poet and membership blank.

If you have not paid your 2001 dues please send them to the address on page 11, or would you help the society by letting us know why you choose not to renew your membership?

## Historical Society of Decatur County



### PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

October 3, 2001

It is hard to believe that 2001 is quickly drawing to a close! Again this year, the museum volunteers have done an excellent job with displays, maintenance, and assisting guests.

In addition, this year a programming series was implemented to enable county residents and visitors to learn more about the communities that together form Decatur County. The first program to help those interested in learning more about local historical resources was held at the City Hall in the spring. September, however, was the busiest programming month. On September 8, George Cann discussed Westport and southern Decatur County history following the Westport Kiwanis BBQ parade. Then, on September 15, Russell Wilhoit spoke about his postcard and Greensburg memorabilia collections. Special thanks goes to these two society members and local historians for making their time and talents available to us. Charity Mitchell also deserves a word of appreciation for her efforts in assembling this year's programs.

The final program will be held on November 13 at the Greensburg/Decatur County Library and will begin at 7 p.m. Diane Coon will present "Tracing the Footsteps of the Underground Railroad in Decatur County and Southeastern Indiana." Ms. Coon has conducted vigorous research into this topic, as well as the Underground Railroad through other parts of Indiana and Kentucky. She has made several presentations throughout the state and numerous news articles have been written about her work. The evening should be an enlightening experience and anyone interested in this topic is encouraged to attend. This definitely is a "don't miss" topic and a "don't miss" speaker for everyone interested in Civil War Era history.

With just two more exhibits planned at the museum this year and only one more seminar, your board members are beginning to prepare for 2002 activities. Those with suggestions for potential exhibits, seminars, or other efforts that the board should be considering as we move into the upcoming year are asked to forward those to me via phone at 663-3947 or via email at [mcnealy92@hotmail.com](mailto:mcnealy92@hotmail.com).

Jennifer McNealy

## Museum News



by  
**Diana Springmier**  
**Museum and**  
**Collections Director**

The museum sported an entirely different look in August and September: a lard press in the kitchen, a one bottom wood plow in the north parlor, a chicken weigher on the dining room side board and a collection of antique small tools filling the table. The south parlor had a huge metal feed sign and portable milker and milk stool on the floor.

All this as well as a John Deere and Allis Chalmer's toy tractor collection, the latter on top of the shiny black Grand Square piano. A detailed wood replica of the Pleak round barn greeted guests inside the door of the north parlor. Across the hall a pictorial history of the Stewart Seed Corn family was displayed in the three-cornered cupboard.

Those with rural roots and collectors enthusiastically answered the call for farm related historical items. Furnishing the exhibit were John Dwiggens, Marc Haston, Don and Margaret Herbert, Pauline Holtkamp, Jill Shasney, Gene McCoy, Jennie Coy, Charles Metz, Paul Menefee, Tom Parker, Chris Parker, Dick Reed, Emily Shireman, Gilman Stewart and Mark White. Ginny Garvey and Helen Hamilton coordinated this unique-to-the-museum presentation.

Volunteerism reached its height at 222 North Franklin on a fall day when the United Fund Day of Daring sent ten volunteers from the Decatur County Memorial Hospital to give the museum "whatever needs to be done," quoting Janice Mangels, hospital marketing director. The willing workers scraped and painted the front porch floor and swing. The five-piece wrought iron Victorian porch set after deep scraping with wire brushes has a shiny new hunter green coat. Windows were washed, and the first floor of the museum had a thorough fall housecleaning. The workers, who arrived in three shifts from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. were Lori Hunter, Kay Lemen, Janice Mangels, Samantha Wilder, Diane McKinney, Robin Meyer, Darlene Roberts, Terri Boyd, Cindy McCamment and Nancy Schmalenberg. We museum regular volunteers certainly appreciate these hospital employees wearing a different hat for a few hours.

An October box lunch on the lawn recognized the volunteers who keep the museum open on weekends and the gardens, herb and flower, weeded and watered. Following lunch, a program involved those present helping identify pictures in the museum's collection that are soon to be catalogued by Charity Mitchell and Russel Wilhoit.

Put the annual Christmas Open House on your calendar. A Christmas Heritage: A Salute to the Traditions of Christmas will be celebrated December 9 from 1 to 4 p.m. throughout the museum. Victorian toys, Williamsburg wreaths on porch windows, the 1920s Christmas village, special music and the Pike's bread pudding with warm butter sauce will be waiting for you as you celebrate the holiday with friends and family.

## Decatur County and the Presidential Election of 1860

by Dr. Calvin D. Davis

A study of an American community's response to the Civil War must first consider the four-party presidential election of 1860 and the community's role in that election. The Republican candidate, Abraham Lincoln, ran on a platform calling for prohibition of slavery in the nation's territories, notwithstanding the fact that the 1856 Supreme Court Decision in the Dred Scott case had declared the Missouri Compromise unconstitutional and had denied Congress authority to enact such a restriction.

The candidate of the Northern Democrats was Senator Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois who had, in 1854, sponsored the act to organize the territories of Kansas and Nebraska. That act, abolished the Missouri Compromise of 1820 which had forbidden slavery north of the line of 36° 30' and declared that the question of slavery should be left to "Popular Sovereignty" in the territories. The Dred Scott decision had made return to the Missouri Compromise unconstitutional but Douglas contended in his "Freeport Doctrine" speech during his famous debates with Lincoln in the 1858 Illinois senatorial campaign that a territory could exclude slavery by refusing to enact laws governing the institution. This suggestion of a way around the Dred Scott decision angered Southern slavery defenders and they split the Democratic party, nominating Vice President John C. Breckinridge. Another party formed, the Constitutional Union, which contended that Americans should focus on the Constitution and the Union and give less attention to slavery matters. It nominated John Bell, a Tennessee slave owner, as its presidential candidate.

The basic statistics of the voting in 1860 made it clear that a serious crisis was at hand. In the free states the contest was largely between Lincoln and Douglas. Lincoln won 1,866,852 votes; most of those votes and all his 180 electoral votes came from free states. In ten slave states he received not a single vote. Douglas won 1,375,157 popular votes, most of them from free states and border slave states. He won only 12 electoral votes – three from New Jersey (which had some slave counties) and nine from the slave state of Missouri. The contest in the other slave states was essentially between Breckinridge and Bell. Breckinridge polled 849,781 popular votes and received 72 electoral votes from eleven slave states. Bell received 589,581 popular votes from three slave states – Tennessee, Kentucky and Virginia and he received 39 electoral votes.

People in Decatur County were probably much aware of issues and personalities in 1860. Throughout the decade preceding that election a number of them, angered by the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850, had been active in the Underground Railroad. The Whigs quickly found their way into the new Republican party, formed immediately after the Kansas-Nebraska Act was signed by President Franklin Pierce in 1854, but the Democratic party remained strong. Democratic presidential candidate James Buchanan carried the county in 1856, but it should be noted that in that election Republican gubernatorial candidate Oliver P. Morton carried the county over Democrat Ashbel P. Willard – who was elected governor.

The Decatur County election in 1860 included votes for all four presidential candidates. The late Professor Logan Esarey in his distinguished History of Indiana listed the Decatur County votes as follows:

continued on page 5

**Presidential Election of 1860 .**

Abraham Lincoln, Republican .....	2028
Stephen A. Douglas, Democratic .....	1946
John C. Breckinridge, Democratic.....	93
John Bell, Constitutional Union.....	20

**Gubernatorial Election**

Henry S. Lane, Republican.....	2003
Thomas A. Hendricks, Democratic....	1672

Lane's majority may have indicated more of a Republican trend than Lincoln's plurality. People considered Lane a strong candidate although it was believed that if elected governor he would soon resign to accept election to the U.S. Senate.

Hendricks, a nephew of Greensburg founder Thomas Hendricks and himself a former student and teacher in the Greensburg Seminary, was almost a "home town boy" but did not receive as large a vote as one might have expected.

There is much about the election of 1860 in Decatur County we would like to know. Unfortunately the files of the Greensburg Standard Lewis Harding used when he wrote his History of Decatur County in 1915 have disappeared. The Decatur Republican for 1857 - 1863 is the only Civil War Decatur County newspaper we have available.

It was a weekly and its coverage of local events was rarely thorough, but in 1860 it kept the Republican platform before voters. Late in the campaign it told its readers that they should go to Cincinnati for a great Lincoln rally on November 2. Round-trip tickets were available at \$1.50, and it is likely many Decatur Countians made the trip for an affair which featured the Cincinnati "Wide Awakes."

The great Lincoln biographer James G. Randall has noted that throughout the North marching groups calling themselves "Wide Awakes" formed "with the importance of volunteer firemen and the exuberance of lodge brothers on parade" and they "were ready at all times with mottoes, torches, special uniforms, and exploding fireworks to demonstrate for the Union, for Lincoln, for free homesteads, free labor, the Constitution, Plymouth Rock, Liberty throughout the world, American industry, river and harbor improvements, and as catch-all for all this and more, the Republican party." The Decatur Republican had said: "Let the Republicans of Decatur turn out en masse and show their Republican brothers of different states that they are still laboring for the election of Old Abe." No doubt in Cincinnati that day they did just that – and had a very good time.

After the election The Republican reminded its readers that the two Indiana electors at large in the Electoral College would be Will Cumback of Greensburg and John Mansfield of Jefferson County. Actually Cumback was the first of Indiana's electors to cast his vote for Abraham Lincoln. When that happened the attention of the nation – and Decatur County – was no longer on the election but on the secession of the Southern states from the Union.

"Wide Awakes  
were ready at all times with  
mottoes, torches, special uniforms,  
and exploding fireworks to demonstrate  
for the Union, for Lincoln, for free home-  
steads, free labor, the Constitution,  
Plymouth Rock, Liberty throughout the  
world, American industry, river and  
harbor improvements, and as catch-  
all for all this and more, the  
Republican party."

## WISH-TV REPORTER SEEKS HELP FROM COUNTY RESIDENTS

My name is Dick Wolfsie and I am a reporter for WISH-TV in Indianapolis. I am also a writer, presently working on a book called Indiana Curiosities to be published next year.

I am looking for at least one (hopefully, two) unique items from each county. Generally, I am avoiding tourist places, places you find in the tour brochures.

Instead, I am looking for off-beat people, places and things. Your ideas can be historical in nature ( Abraham Lincoln went fishing here), or they can be actual buildings with interesting histories. I also need people with quirky hobbies, odd stores and restaurants. The biggest, smallest, longest. Anything people would say, "Wow, that's different."

Anything that would be fun to read about in your county has a place in the book. While I am avoiding stuff that is in every tour guide I would consider it if you had a different twist on it. For example, the tree in the Greensburg court house would not be in the book UNLESS I got a great new story about it that is not generally known.

I will probably be calling you in the next month. My assistant, Layne Cameron, may also give you a call. Any help would be appreciated. If you have any immediate thoughts, please e-mail me.

I have also included a more specific outline of the kind of stuff I am looking for. Thanks

Dick Wolfsie

Here is what I am looking for -

PEOPLE:

With odd hobbies

Who are World Record Setters

Who have animals with amazing talents.

Who are dead ringers for famous people

PLACES:

With incredible natural phenomena

Unusual eateries

Off-the-wall museums, bizarre sculptures,

odd buildings

Wacky festivals or other events

Where famous people were born or paid an unusual visit.

### HISTORY, TRIVIA

Local folklore, gossip, legends, or little-known facts about your area

Dramatic, almost unbelievable events that have occurred in your area

Places do not necessarily have to be open to the public (a person's private off-beat collection, for example); nor do they have to be an "official" tourist spot. It could be a fork in the road where something very unusual happened. Nothing will be published without permission of the appropriate people.

Your personal input is essential to the book.

For more information about my work you can go to WISHTV.COM and click on "Dick and Barney" under FEATURES.

Thank you,

Dick Wolfsie

Editor's note: If you have an idea for Wolfsie's book, please e-mail Ruth Dorrel at [rdrorrel@shelbynet.net](mailto:rdrorrel@shelbynet.net), or write her at 407 N. Webster, St. Paul, IN 47272

### Ruth's Gifts

121 W. Main, Bates Bldg.

### New!

*Little Sister Series - \$1.00*

*Big Sister Series - \$1.25*

*Introducing the new*

*Nancy Ann*

*Story Book Dolls*

*Nancy Ann goes to school,*

*goes out to play,*

*goes to a party*

*goes to dancing school,*

*goes to Sunday School,*

*goes to bed*

*Alice Through the Looking*

*Glass \$1.60*

*(1951)*

## Not So Long Ago

**August 20, 1951**

### **Greensburg Daily News**

Fifty candidates are out for the first Grid Practice at Greensburg High School. Coach Jack Spencer and his assistants got acquainted with the team members.

Student managers are:

Charles Land, Tommy Bostic, Herschel Colson and Bill Land.

**Seniors** are:

Ed Belter,  
Lewis Cruser,  
Gilbert Harmon,  
James Marlin,  
Gene Patterson,  
Weldon Stephens,  
Garry Updike  
Karl Walker.

**Juniors** are:

Earl Bowling,  
Don Buell,  
Ray Clark,  
James Cuskaden,  
Denny Doerflinger,  
George Kessler,  
Don Voiles,  
Dan Rawling,  
Curtis O'Brian,  
Richard Stier  
Elmer Swisher.

**Sophomores** are:

Gene Acra,  
Dan Baldwin,  
Tommy Jones,  
Larry Pohlman,  
Richard Reed,  
Joe Westhafer,  
John Meek,  
Danny Wilhoit,  
James Jones,  
Gene Williams,

Buddy Ryle

Rollin Harpring.

**Freshmen** are:

Jimmy Hess,  
James Doerflinger,  
Dan Schwendemann,  
Jack Baldwin,  
Paul McLaughlin,  
Jimmy Huber,  
Paul Fightmaster,  
Stanley Molton,  
Ed Koors,  
Fred Ketchem,  
James Linville,  
Jackie Borden,  
Joe Buell,  
Bill Greive,  
Johnny Nelson,  
Ronald Harmon,  
Richard Hellmich,  
J.P. Morgan  
Bob Holzhouse.

○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○

### **May 1951**

General Omar Bradley ended his six days of testimony leaving senators probing the dismissal of General Douglas MacArthur by President Truman more widely split along party lines than they were before he appeared. May 1951.

■ George Erdmann 84, former Greensburg postmaster, died. The highly respected Greensburg man built the Grill Building on the east side in 1910. He was appointed postmaster under the Woodrow Wilson Administration in 1913. He moved to Los Angeles in 1920.

Erdmann Cigar Factory started on South Franklin where the news office is, later the Seitz

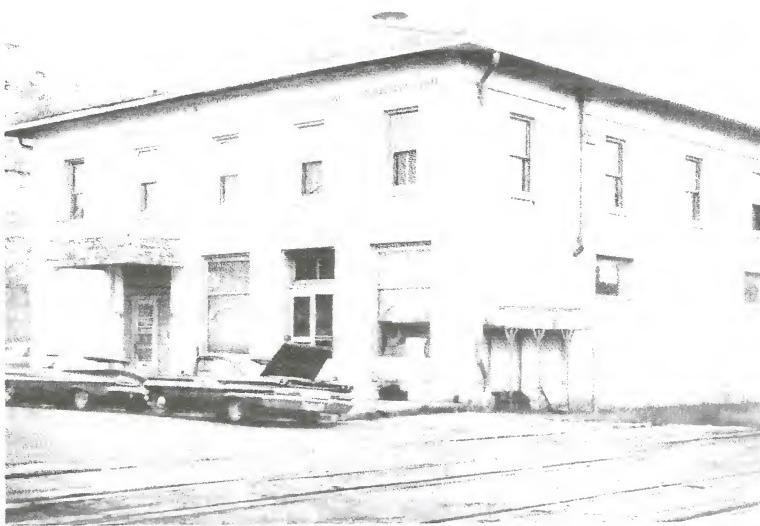
restaurant was there, but the factory later moved to the east side of the street.

Will Erdmann was the last survivor of the immediate descendant of Charles Erdmann who started the business. Sons were Charles Jr. oldest, was the principle salesman. Will, George and Fred began building the business into one of the most successful cigar factories in this part of Indiana. At one time there were 32 employees. No one now remembers him, but at one time just about every man longed for the seductive fragrance of the old Plantation, Little Snap, Trio Panatella, Korea or Judge Myers cigars. After their father's death, George went into real estate, Charles went into stocks and bonds and Fred into insurance. But Will kept rolling cigars, long after the profit had vanished. It was sentiment that gripped him, the same influence that his bow drew out of the cello, enchanting, disturbing, lulling.

The cigar factory thrived from the 1880s until well into the 20th century.

He was well known for his cello playing.

While he was in the Michigan Hill nursing home during his last few months, he was still selling cigars for his friends but ordered them from a jobber which they proclaimed, "they aren't as good as Will used to roll but passable."



### Early Eagles Lodge

The building pictured on the left was the Eagles Lodge hall on South Broadway. The Eagles leased the building until about 1909 when they purchased the property. It was remodeled in 1941. The Eagles was instituted in Greensburg in 1904. The minstrel shows, so popular here at one time, were sponsored by the Eagles for several years under the direction of Creth J. Loyd.

Members also sponsored baseball and bowling teams and sent drill teams to national conventions of the FOE

### Donations to the Society

The Bulletin has not listed the names of those who have donated articles to the society for some time. Below are names of those who have donated from November 1, 2000 to the September 26, 2001. The list includes only those who checked that they were willing to have their donation made public through the Society's Bulletin. The actual gift is not listed.

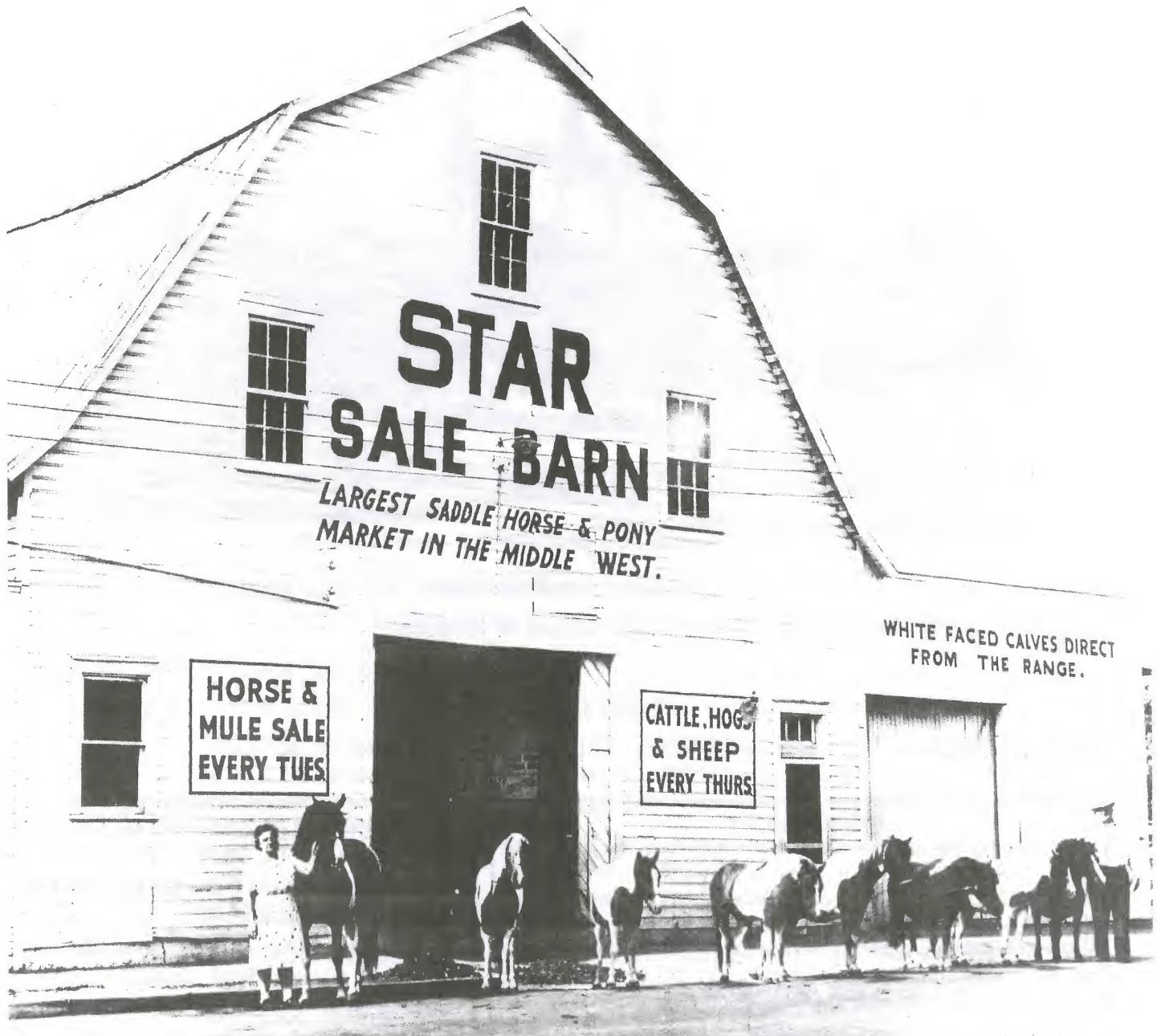
Daughters of Jeannette Wonn  
 Jenny Brodie, daughter of Myrna Brodie  
 John Westhafer  
 Betty Wonn Chastain  
 Charles D. Dettlinger  
 Chamber of Commerce  
 Patricia Whitmore Wilhoite  
 Louise Robbins  
 Family of James McLaughlin  
 Ginny Garvey  
 Sandy Spear  
 Howard and MaryAnn Ernsts on behalf of  
 Paul and Edith Barringer  
 Veneita Barton  
 Bob Elliott  
 Avia Jean Alexander-Chew

Rod and Mary Bailey  
 Margaret Ann Lowe  
 Lou Jean Arthur  
 Family of Zue Mitchell  
 Family of Hetty E. Jacobs  
 William Klene  
 The Metz family  
 Marc Haston  
 Chris Parker  
 Charles W. Metz  
 Betty Gauck and Doris Vanderbur  
 Van Batterton  
 Judith Glore  
 The Rev. Fred McCoy  
 Ed Schwendenmann

### May in Indiana by Bob Mitchell

It's May in Indiana  
 And the Lord stretched out his hand  
 And polished like an emerald  
 The rolling fertile land.  
 He filled the woods with music  
 Of uncounted feathered friends  
 Oh! The evidence of God  
 In Indiana never ends

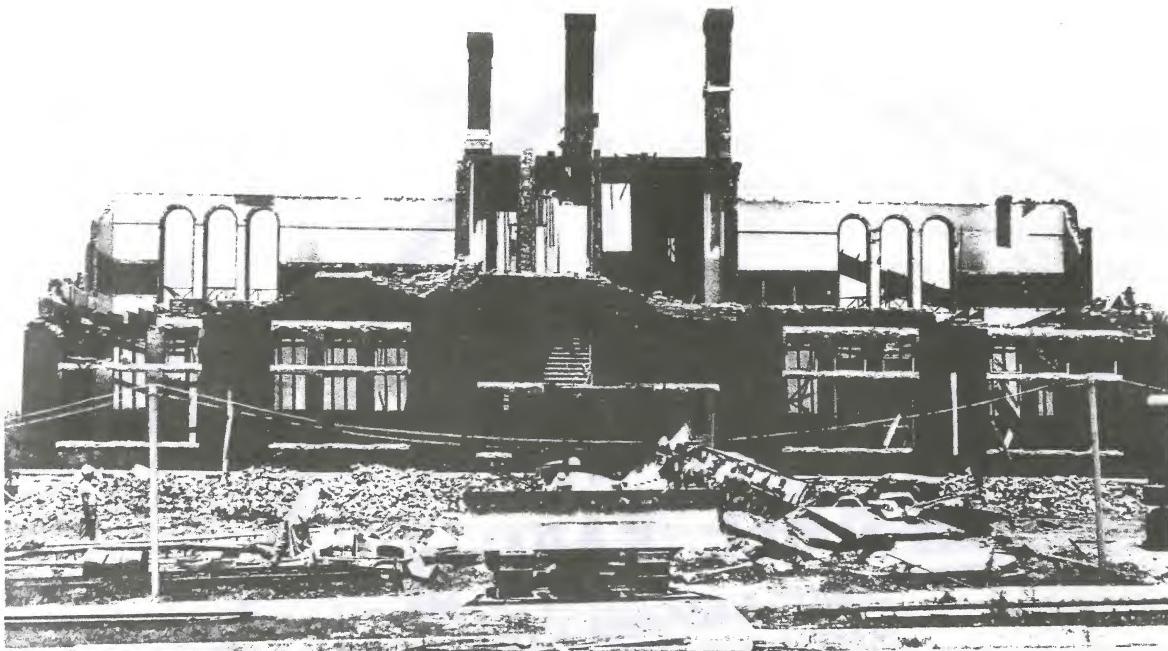
And it makes us Hoosiers realize  
 that He's given us so much  
 When the winds and waters emphasize  
 The power behind His touch.  
 Then we see that it is His will  
 His willingness to give  
 That makes our Indiana  
 Such a lovely place to live!



The Star Sale Barn shown above was once an important part of Decatur County life. A huge sale was held every Tuesday and Thursday. Horses and mules were sold every Tuesday and cattle was sold every Thursday. Dealers and buyers came a good distance to attend the sale. The building still stands on North Michigan, protected by the "grandfather" clause.

### The Nasty Tobacco

What is the nasty looking object? It is a chew of tobacco. Oh, how naughty it is to use the filthy weed. It makes the teeth black, and spoils the parlor carpet. Go quick and throw the horrid stuff away. Out it in the ice cream freezer or in the coffee pot, where nobody can see it. Little girls, you should never chew tobacco. ----- Eugene Field - 1900



A school was pictured in the last Bulletin and members were asked to identify it. A suggestion was even made that it might be New Point, Milford or Kingston.

It turned out to be the old East End School in Greensburg. It was torn down in 1956, about two years before the editor came to Decatur County. The picture above shows the building being demolished. Several members identified the picture. *Thanks to all*

#### Depression Era?

During the first six months of 1930 America paid more than \$1,400,000,000 for new automobiles. More than \$4,000,000,000 for the up-keep in the cars already in use. About \$126,000,000 were spent for candy. Nearly \$400,000,000 for radios. \$100,000,000 for perfumes and toilet goods. It is estimated that at least \$1,000,000,000 were spent in attending the movies and talkies during the same period of time

The population of the United States was 122,775,046 in 1930 - an increase of 17,064,462 or 16.1 percent of the 1920 population.

Several local selectees left by train Saturday, April 14, 1941. The men were Albert Wallpe, Donald Bainbridge, Neudie Heatherington, George Wm. Oaks, Joseph Frank Forster, Henry A. Schoettmer, Stanley McHenry, Lonnie Ray, Joseph James Mauer, Urban A. Hodapp, Cloyd Schilling, Monroe Westerfield, Howard Ruble and Morton Ogle.

1941

#### Tri-County Genealogical Society

The July-September issue of the Tri-County Genealogical Society Newsletter includes a story from the June 24, 1864 National Defender about Company F, 18th Ind. Vols. Metamora, Ind listing the returned veterans of Co. H, Ind. Volunteers and the Muster Roll of Co. H 139th Reg't Ind. Vols.

Also included is a story from the Saturday, Nov. 26, 1921 Greensburg Daily News which lists 17 students from Decatur county who were at the time enrolled at Indiana University. Ten were from Greensburg, two from New Point, two from Millhousen, one from Adams, one from Letts and one from Westport. The issue also has lists of queries the Society has received during July through September.

The address for the Society is: P.O. Box 118, Batesville, IN 47006-0118. This organization serves Decatur, Franklin and Ripley counties. The next meetings will be November 14 and December 12. The meetings are held in the Batesville Public Library at 131 N. Walnut St., Batesville. The editor of the Tri-County Newsletter, which is published quarterly, is Irene Krieger who is a member of the Decatur County Historical Society.

**Committee Chairs**

Budget, Ruth Dorrel  
 Finance, Dan Anderson  
 Ornaments, Tony Owens  
 Publicity, Terri-Anne Blanton  
 Programming  
   Jennifer McNealy, Chair  
   Joe Westhafer, Excursions  
   Russell Wilhoit, Genealogy/Research  
   Charity Mitchell, Seminars/Presentations  
 Museum and Collections Director, Diana Springmier  
 Acquisitions, Ruth Cash  
 Displays, Ginny Garvey  
 Volunteers, Helen Hamilton  
 Maintenance, Ed Deiwert  
 Agricultural Museum, Gene McCoy

**DEADLINE DATES FOR BULLETINS**

**March 15, 2002**  
**June 15, 2002**  
**Sept. 15, 2002**  
**Dec. 15, 2001**

You can't fool people all the time

A fact that's really true

(The reason - you may think a crime  
 But sometimes they're fooling you.)

Easy to tell sinner

From saint

The sinner is always

The one

That you ain't

*(from mystery poet)*

**Leather Breeches Beans**

Sometime during the winter take a string of dried green beans down, remove the thread, and drop them in a pot of scalding water. Then add "a good hunk'a meat" (ham, pork, or the like, depending on your taste) and cook all morning.

**Cracklin' Bread**

Prepare corn bread by using 2 cups corn meal, 2 teaspoons of salt, 1 cup of buttermilk, 1 teaspoon of soda, and 1/2 teaspoon of baking powder. Mix 1/2 cup of cracklin's into the mixture. If it is too dry use some lukewarm water to make the right consistency for corn bread. Put in the oven and cook until done.

**If your dues are due please use this form to send them to the address below.**

Historical Society of Decatur County, Inc.

P.O. Box 163 Greensburg, IN 47240

Due January 1 of each year: **Membership:** single - \$10: **Couple - \$15:** **Contributing - \$30**

**RENEWAL**

**NEW**

**GIFT OR DONATION**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMORIALS**

IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

### SOCIETY'S OFFICERS

President..... Jennifer McNealy  
7053 W. SR 46  
Greensburg, IN 47240  
(e-mail mcnealy92@hotmail.com)  
Vice Pres..... Ruth Cash  
Rec. Sec..... Charity Mitchell  
Cor. Sec..... Carolyn Bean  
Membership Sec..... Rheadawn Metz  
Treas..... Dan Anderson

### **Board of Directors**

Kathryn Bailey  
Ginny Garvey  
Helen Hamilton  
Ed Deiwert  
David Miers  
Diana Springmier  
Van Batterton at large

### County Historian

Ruth Dorrel, 407 N. Webster,  
St. Paul, IN 47272  
e-mail: rdorrel@shelbynet.net

### Editor of Bulletin

Pat Smith, 122 W. Sheridan,  
Greensburg, In 47240  
e-mail patsmith@seidata.com

### MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Diana Springmier  
663-2997

### SOCIETY'S AGENT

William H. Robbins

### COUNTY GENEALOGISTS

Irene Kreiger, 23184 Pocket Rd., Batesville, IN 47006  
email: ikrieger@seidata.com  
Russell Wilhoit, 328 N. Jackson, Greensburg, IN 47240  
email: rwilhoit@hsonline.net

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF  
DECATUR COUNTY, INC.  
P.O. BOX 163  
GREENSBURG, IN 47240

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Permit No. 53  
Greensburg, IN 47240

Terri-Ann Blanton  
601 W. Hendricks St.  
Greensburg, In 47240

# THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Vol. 7 No. 16

October 2001

Greensburg, Indiana

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**November 13 – at 7 p.m.**

at the Greensburg Public Library, Diane Coon will present "Tracing the Footsteps of the Underground Railroad in Decatur County and Southeastern Indiana." Please don't miss this.

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*President Jennifer McNealy*

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

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William and Vera Barkley, New Palestine

Nancy Buchanan, Indianapolis

George Hillenbrand II, Batesville

A special **WELCOME** to **TERRI ANNE**

**BLANTON**, our new publicity Chairperson.

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**page 3** - Museum News

**page 4** - Decatur County and the Presidential election of 1860

**page 5** - continued

**page 6** - Dick Wolfsie needs our help

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### PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

October 3, 2001

It is hard to believe that 2001 is quickly drawing to a close! Again this year, the museum volunteers have done an excellent job with displays, maintenance, and assisting guests.

In addition, this year a programming series was implemented to enable county residents and visitors to learn more about the communities that together form Decatur County. The first program to help those interested in learning more about local historical resources was held at the City Hall in the spring. September, however, was the busiest programming month. On September 8, George Cann discussed Westport and southern Decatur County history following the Westport Kiwanis BBQ parade. Then, on September 15, Russell Wilhoit spoke about his postcard and Greensburg memorabilia collections. Special thanks goes to these two society members and local historians for making their time and talents available to us. Charity Mitchell also deserves a word of appreciation for her efforts in assembling this year's programs.

The final program will be held on November 13 at the Greensburg/Decatur County Library and will begin at 7 p.m. Diane Coon will present "Tracing the Footsteps of the Underground Railroad in Decatur County and Southeastern Indiana." Ms. Coon has conducted vigorous research into this topic, as well as the Underground Railroad through other parts of Indiana and Kentucky. She has made several presentations throughout the state and numerous news articles have been written about her work. The evening should be an enlightening experience and anyone interested in this topic is encouraged to attend. This definitely is a "don't miss" topic and a "don't miss" speaker for everyone interested in Civil War Era history.

With just two more exhibits planned at the museum this year and only one more seminar, your board members are beginning to prepare for 2002 activities. Those with suggestions for potential exhibits, seminars, or other efforts that the board should be considering as we move into the upcoming year are asked to forward those to me via phone at 663-3947 or via email at [mcnealy92@hotmail.com](mailto:mcnealy92@hotmail.com).

*Jennifer McNealy*

# Museum News



by  
**Diana Springmier**  
**Museum and**  
**Collections Director**

The museum sported an entirely different look in August and September: a lard press in the kitchen, a one bottom wood plow in the north parlor, a chicken weigher on the dining room side board and a collection of antique small tools filling the table. The south parlor had a huge metal feed sign and portable milker and milk stool on the floor.

All this as well as a John Deere and Allis Chalmer's toy tractor collection, the latter on top of the shiny black Grand Square piano. A detailed wood replica of the Pleak round barn greeted guests inside the door of the north parlor. Across the hall a pictorial history of the Stewart Seed Corn family was displayed in the three-cornered cupboard.

Those with rural roots and collectors enthusiastically answered the call for farm related historical items. Furnishing the exhibit were John Dwiggens, Marc Haston, Don and Margaret Herbert, Pauline Holtkamp, Jill Shasney, Gene McCoy, Jennie Coy, Charles Metz, Paul Menefee, Tom Parker, Chris Parker, Dick Reed, Emily Shireman, Gilman Stewart and Mark White. Ginny Garvey and Helen Hamilton coordinated this unique-to-the-museum presentation.

Volunteerism reached its height at 222 North Franklin on a fall day when the United Fund Day of Daring sent ten volunteers from the Decatur County Memorial Hospital to give the museum "whatever needs to be done," quoting Janice Mangels, hospital marketing director. The willing workers scraped and painted the front porch floor and swing. The five-piece wrought iron Victorian porch set after deep scraping with wire brushes has a shiny new hunter green coat. Windows were washed, and the first floor of the museum had a thorough fall housecleaning. The workers, who arrived in three shifts from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. were Lori Hunter, Kay Lemen, Janice Mangels, Samantha Wilder, Diane McKinney, Robin Meyer, Darlene Roberts, Terri Boyd, Cindy McCamment and Nancy Schmalenberg. We museum regular volunteers certainly appreciate these hospital employees wearing a different hat for a few hours.

An October box lunch on the lawn recognized the volunteers who keep the museum open on weekends and the gardens, herb and flower, weeded and watered. Following lunch, a program involved those present helping identify pictures in the museum's collection that are soon to be catalogued by Charity Mitchell and Russel Wilhoit.

Put the annual Christmas Open House on your calendar. A Christmas Heritage: A Salute to the Traditions of Christmas will be celebrated December 9 from 1 to 4 p.m. throughout the museum. Victorian toys, Williamsburg wreaths on porch windows, the 1920s Christmas village, special music and the Pike's bread pudding with warm butter sauce will be waiting for you as you celebrate the holiday with friends and family.

## Decatur County and the Presidential Election of 1860

by Dr. Calvin D. Davis

A study of an American community's response to the Civil War must first consider the four-party presidential election of 1860 and the community's role in that election. The Republican candidate, Abraham Lincoln, ran on a platform calling for prohibition of slavery in the nation's territories, notwithstanding the fact that the 1856 Supreme Court Decision in the Dred Scott case had declared the Missouri Compromise unconstitutional and had denied Congress authority to enact such a restriction.

The candidate of the Northern Democrats was Senator Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois who had, in 1854, sponsored the act to organize the territories of Kansas and Nebraska. That act, abolished the Missouri Compromise of 1820 which had forbidden slavery north of the line of 36° 30' and declared that the question of slavery should be left to "Popular Sovereignty" in the territories. The Dred Scott decision had made return to the Missouri Compromise unconstitutional but Douglas contended in his "Freeport Doctrine" speech during his famous debates with Lincoln in the 1858 Illinois senatorial campaign that a territory could exclude slavery by refusing to enact laws governing the institution. This suggestion of a way around the Dred Scott decision angered Southern slavery defenders and they split the Democratic party, nominating Vice President John C. Breckinridge. Another party formed, the Constitutional Union, which contended that Americans should focus on the Constitution and the Union and give less attention to slavery matters. It nominated John Bell, a Tennessee slave owner, as its presidential candidate.

The basic statistics of the voting in 1860 made it clear that a serious crisis was at hand. In the free states the contest was largely between Lincoln and Douglas. Lincoln won 1,866,852 votes; most of those votes and all his 180 electoral votes came from free states. In ten slave states he received not a single vote. Douglas won 1,375,157 popular votes, most of them from free states and border slave states. He won only 12 electoral votes – three from New Jersey (which had some slave counties) and nine from the slave state of Missouri. The contest in the other slave states was essentially between Breckinridge and Bell. Breckinridge polled 849,781 popular votes and received 72 electoral votes from eleven slave states. Bell received 589,581 popular votes from three slave states – Tennessee, Kentucky and Virginia and he received 39 electoral votes.

People in Decatur County were probably much aware of issues and personalities in 1860. Throughout the decade preceding that election a number of them, angered by the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850, had been active in the Underground Railroad. The Whigs quickly found their way into the new Republican party, formed immediately after the Kansas-Nebraska Act was signed by President Franklin Pierce in 1854, but the Democratic party remained strong. Democratic presidential candidate James Buchanan carried the county in 1856, but it should be noted that in that election Republican gubernatorial candidate Oliver P. Morton carried the county over Democrat Ashbel P. Willard – who was elected governor.

The Decatur County election in 1860 included votes for all four presidential candidates. The late Professor Logan Esarey in his distinguished History of Indiana listed the Decatur County votes as follows:

continued on page 5

**Presidential Election of 1860**

Abraham Lincoln, Republican .....	2028
Stephen A. Douglas, Democratic .....	1946
John C. Breckinridge, Democratic.....	93
John Bell, Constitutional Union.....	20

**Gubernatorial Election**

Henry S. Lane, Republican.....	2003
Thomas A. Hendricks, Democratic....	1672

Lane's majority may have indicated more of a Republican trend than Lincoln's plurality. People considered Lane a strong candidate although it was believed that if elected governor he would soon resign to accept election to the U.S. Senate.

Hendricks, a nephew of Greensburg founder Thomas Hendricks and himself a former student and teacher in the Greensburg Seminary, was almost a "home town boy" but did not receive as large a vote as one might have expected.

There is much about the election of 1860 in Decatur County we would like to know. Unfortunately the files of the Greensburg Standard Lewis Harding used when he wrote his History of Decatur County in 1915 have disappeared. The Decatur Republican for 1857 - 1863 is the only Civil War Decatur County newspaper we have available.

It was a weekly and its coverage of local events was rarely thorough, but in 1860 it kept the Republican platform before voters. Late in the campaign it told its readers that they should go to Cincinnati for a great Lincoln rally on November 2. Round-trip tickets were available at \$1.50, and it is likely many Decatur Countians made the trip for an affair which featured the Cincinnati "Wide Awakes."

The great Lincoln biographer James G. Randall has noted that throughout the North marching groups calling themselves "Wide Awakes" formed "with the importance of volunteer firemen and the exuberance of lodge brothers on parade" and they "were ready at all times with mottoes, torches, special uniforms, and exploding fireworks to demonstrate for the Union, for Lincoln, for free homesteads, free labor, the Constitution, Plymouth Rock, Liberty throughout the world, American industry, river and harbor improvements, and as catch-all for all this and more, the Republican party." The Decatur Republican had said: "Let the Republicans of Decatur turn out en masse and show their Republican brothers of different states that they are still laboring for the election of Old Abe." No doubt in Cincinnati that day they did just that – and had a very good time.

After the election The Republican reminded its readers that the two Indiana electors at large in the Electoral College would be Will Cumback of Greensburg and John Mansfield of Jefferson County. Actually Cumback was the first of Indiana's electors to cast his vote for Abraham Lincoln. When that happened the attention of the nation – and Decatur County – was no longer on the election but on the secession of the Southern states from the Union.

"Wide Awakes

were ready at all times with  
mottoes, torches, special uniforms,  
and exploding fireworks to demonstrate  
for the Union, for Lincoln, for free home  
steads, free labor, the Constitution,  
Plymouth Rock, Liberty throughout the  
world, American industry, river and  
harbor improvements, and as catch-  
all for all this and more, the  
Republican party."

## WISH-TV REPORTER SEEKS HELP FROM COUNTY RESIDENTS

My name is Dick Wolfsie and I am a reporter for WISH-TV in Indianapolis. I am also a writer, presently working on a book called Indiana Curiosities to be published next year.

I am looking for at least one (hopefully, two) unique items from each county. Generally, I am avoiding tourist places, places you find in the tour brochures.

Instead, I am looking for off-beat people, places and things. Your ideas can be historical in nature ( Abraham Lincoln went fishing here), or they can be actual buildings with interesting histories. I also need people with quirky hobbies, odd stores and restaurants. The biggest, smallest, longest. Anything people would say, "Wow, that's different."

Anything that would be fun to read about in your county has a place in the book. While I am avoiding stuff that is in every tour guide I would consider it if you had a different twist on it. For example, the tree in the Greensburg court house would not be in the book UNLESS I got a great new story about it that is not generally known.

I will probably be calling you in the next month. My assistant, Layne Cameron, may also give you a call. Any help would be appreciated. If you have any immediate thoughts, please e-mail me.

I have also included a more specific outline of the kind of stuff I am looking for. Thanks

Dick Wolfsie

Here is what I am looking for -

### PEOPLE:

With odd hobbies

Who are World Record Setters

Who have animals with amazing talents.

Who are dead ringers for famous people

### PLACES:

With incredible natural phenomena

Unusual eateries

Off-the-wall museums, bizarre sculptures,

odd buildings

Wacky festivals or other events

Where famous people were born or paid an unusual visit.

### HISTORY, TRIVIA

Local folklore, gossip, legends, or little-known facts about your area

Dramatic, almost unbelievable events that have occurred in your area

Places do not necessarily have to be open to the public (a person's private off-beat collection, for example); nor do they have to be an "official" tourist spot. It could be a fork in the road where something very unusual happened. Nothing will be published without permission of the appropriate people.

Your personal input is essential to the book.

For more information about my work you can go to WISHTV.COM and click on "Dick and Barney" under FEATURES.

Thank you,

Dick Wolfsie

*Editor's note:* If you have an idea for Wolfsie's book, please e-mail Ruth Dorrel at rdorrel@shelbynet.net, or write her at 407 N. Webster, St. Paul, IN 47272

### Ruth's Gifts

121 W. Main, Bates Bldg.

### New!

*Little Sister Series - \$1.00*

*Big Sister Series - \$1.25*

*Introducing the new*

*Nancy Ann*

*Story Book Dolls*

*Nancy Ann goes to school,*

*goes out to play,*

*goes to a party*

*goes to dancing school,*

*goes to Sunday School,*

*goes to bed*

*Alice Through the Looking*

*Glass \$1.60*

*(1951)*

## Not So Long Ago

### August 20, 1951 Greensburg Daily News

Fifty candidates are out for the first Grid Practice at Greensburg High School. Coach Jack Spencer and his assistants got acquainted with the team members.

Student managers are:

Charles Land, Tommy Bostic, Herschel Colson and Bill Land.

**Seniors** are:

Ed Belter,  
Lewis Cruser,  
Gilbert Harmon,  
James Marlin,  
Gene Patterson,  
Weldon Stephens,  
Garry Updike  
Karl Walker.

**Juniors** are:

Earl Bowling,  
Don Buell,  
Ray Clark,  
James Cuskaden,  
Denny Doerflinger,  
George Kessler,  
Don Voiles,  
Dan Rawling,  
Curtis O'Brian,  
Richard Stier  
Elmer Swisher.

**Sophomores** are:

Gene Acra,  
Dan Baldwin,  
Tommy Jones,  
Larry Pohlman,  
Richard Reed,  
Joe Westhafer,  
John Meek,  
Danny Wilhoit,  
James Jones,  
Gene Williams,

Buddy Ryle  
Rollin Harpring.  
**Freshmen** are:  
Jimmy Hess,  
James Doerflinger,  
Dan Schwendemann,  
Jack Baldwin,  
Paul McLaughlin,  
Jimmy Huber,  
Paul Fightmaster,  
Stanley Molton,  
Ed Koors,  
Fred Ketchem,  
James Linville,  
Jackie Borden,  
Joe Buell,  
Bill Greive,  
Johnny Nelson,  
Ronald Harmon,  
Richard Hellmich,  
J.P. Morgan  
Bob Holzhause.



### May 1951

General Omar Bradley ended his six days of testimony leaving senators probing the dismissal of General Douglas MacArthur by President Truman more widely split along party lines than they were before he appeared. May 1951.

■ George Erdmann 84, former Greensburg postmaster, died. The highly respected Greensburg man built the Grill Building on the east side in 1910. He was appointed postmaster under the Woodrow Wilson Administration in 1913. He moved to Los Angeles in 1920.

Erdmann Cigar Factory started on South Franklin where the news office is, later the Seitz

restaurant was there, but the factory later moved to the east side of the street.

Will Erdmann was the last survivor of the immediate descendant of Charles Erdmann who started the business. Sons were Charles Jr. oldest, was the principle salesman. Will, George and Fred began building the business into one of the most successful cigar factories in this part of Indiana. At one time there were 32 employees. No one now remembers him, but at one time just about every man longed for the seductive fragrance of the old Plantation, Little Snap, Trio Panatella, Korea or Judge Myers cigars. After their father's death, George went into real estate, Charles went into stocks and bonds and Fred into insurance. But Will kept rolling cigars, long after the profit had vanished. It was sentiment that gripped him, the same influence that his bow drew out of the cello, enchanting, disturbing, lulling.

The cigar factory thrived from the 1880s until well into the 20th century.

He was well known for his cello playing.

While he was in the Michigan Hill nursing home during his last few months, he was still selling cigars for his friends but ordered them from a jobber which they proclaimed, "they aren't as good as Will used to roll but passable."



### Early Eagles Lodge

The building pictured on the left was the Eagles Lodge hall on South Broadway. The Eagles leased the building until about 1909 when they purchased the property. It was remodeled in 1941. The Eagles was instituted in Greensburg in 1904. The minstrel shows, so popular here at one time, were sponsored by the Eagles for several years under the direction of Creth J. Loyd.

Members also sponsored baseball and bowling teams and sent drill teams to national conventions of the FOE

### Donations to the Society

The Bulletin has not listed the names of those who have donated articles to the society for some time. Below are names of those who have donated from November 1, 2000 to the September 26, 2001. The list includes only those who checked that they were willing to have their donation made public through the Society's Bulletin. The actual gift is not listed.

Daughters of Jeannette Wonn  
 Jenny Brodie, daughter of Myrna Brodie  
 John Westhafer  
 Betty Wonn Chastain  
 Charles D. Dettlinger  
 Chamber of Commerce  
 Patricia Whitmore Wilhoite  
 Louise Robbins  
 Family of James McLaughlin  
 Ginny Garvey  
 Sandy Spear  
 Howard and MaryAnn Ernstes on behalf of  
 Paul and Edith Barringer  
 Veneita Barton  
 Bob Elliott  
 Avia Jean Alexander-Chew

Rod and Mary Bailey  
 Margaret Ann Lowe  
 Lou Jean Arthur  
 Family of Zue Mitchell  
 Family of Hetty E. Jacobs  
 William Klene  
 The Metz family  
 Marc Haston  
 Chris Parker  
 Charles W. Metz  
 Betty Gauck and Doris Vanderbur  
 Van Batterton  
 Judith Glore  
 The Rev. Fred McCoy  
 Ed Schwendenmann

### May in Indiana by Bob Mitchell

It's May in Indiana  
 And the Lord stretched out his hand  
 And polished like an emerald  
 The rolling fertile land.  
 He filled the woods with music  
 Of uncounted feathered friends  
 Oh! The evidence of God  
 In Indiana never ends

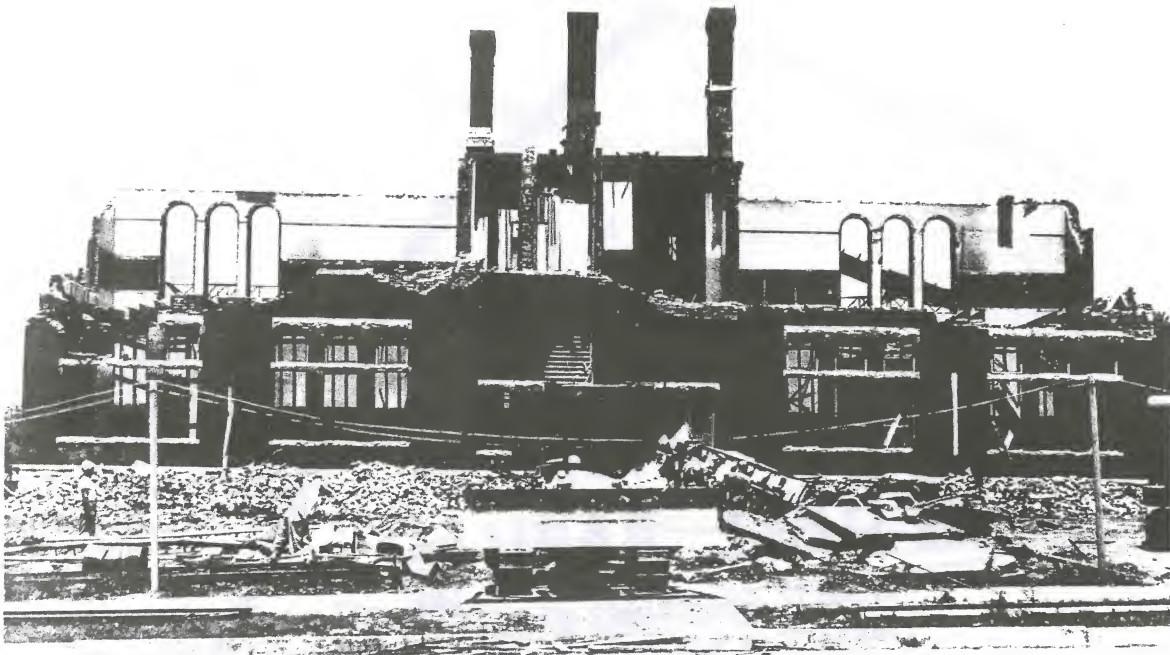
And it makes us Hoosiers realize  
 that He's given us so much  
 When the winds and waters emphasize  
 The power behind His touch.  
 Then we see that it is His will  
 His willingness to give  
 That makes our Indiana  
 Such a lovely place to live!



The Star Sale Barn shown above was once an important part of Decatur County life. A huge sale was held every Tuesday and Thursday. Horses and mules were sold every Tuesday and cattle was sold every Thursday. Dealers and buyers came a good distance to attend the sale. The building still stands on North Michigan, protected by the "grandfather" clause.

### The Nasty Tobacco

What is the nasty looking object? It is a chew of tobacco. Oh, how naughty it is to use the filthy weed. It makes the teeth black, and spoils the parlor carpet. Go quick and throw the horrid stuff away. Out it in the ice cream freezer or in the coffee pot, where nobody can see it. Little girls, you should never chew tobacco. ----- Eugene Field - 1900



A school was pictured in the last Bulletin and members were asked to identify it. A suggestion was even made that it might be New Point, Milford or Kingston.

It turned out to be the old East End School in Greensburg. It was torn down in 1956, about two years before the editor came to Decatur County. The picture above shows the building being demolished. Several members identified the picture. *Thanks to all*

#### Depression Era?

During the first six months of 1930 America paid more than \$1,400,000,000 for new automobiles. More than \$4,000,000,000 for the up-keep in the cars already in use. About \$126,000,000 were spent for candy. Nearly \$400,000,000 for radios. \$100,000,000 for perfumes and toilet goods. It is estimated that at least \$1,000,000,000 were spent in attending the movies and talkies during the same period of time

The population of the United States was 122,775,046 in 1930 - an increase of 17,064,462 or 16.1 percent of the 1920 population.

Several local selectees left by train Saturday, April 14, 1941. The men were Albert Wallpe, Donald Bainbridge, Neudie Heatherington, George Wm. Oaks, Joseph Frank Forster, Henry A. Schoettmer, Stanley McHenry, Lonnie Ray, Joseph James Mauer, Urban A. Hodapp, Cloyd Schilling, Monroe Westerfield, Howard Ruble and Morton Ogle.

1941

#### Tri-County Genealogical Society

The July-September issue of the Tri-County Genealogical Society Newsletter includes a story from the June 24, 1864 National Defender about Company F, 18th Ind. Vols. Metamora, Ind listing the returned veterans of Co. H, Ind. Volunteers and the Muster Roll of Co. H 139th Reg't Ind. Vols.

Also included is a story from the Saturday, Nov. 26, 1921 Greensburg Daily News which lists 17 students from Decatur county who were at the time enrolled at Indiana University. Ten were from Greensburg, two from New Point, two from Millhousen, one from Adams, one from Letts and one from Westport. The issue also has lists of queries the Society has received during July through September.

The address for the Society is: P.O. Box 118, Batesville, IN 47006-0118. This organization serves Decatur, Franklin and Ripley counties. The next meetings will be November 14 and December 12. The meetings are held in the Batesville Public Library at 131 N. Walnut St., Batesville. The editor of the Tri-County Newsletter, which is published quarterly, is Irene Krieger who is a member of the Decatur County Historical Society.

### Committee Chairs

Budget, Ruth Dorrel  
Finance, Dan Anderson  
Ornaments, Tony Owens  
Publicity, Terri-Anne Blanton  
Programming  
    Jennifer McNealy, Chair  
    Joe Westhafer, Excursions  
    Russell Wilhoit, Genealogy/Research  
    Charity Mitchell, Seminars/Presentations  
Museum and Collections Director, Diana Springmier  
Acquisitions, Ruth Cash  
Displays, Ginny Garvey  
Volunteers, Helen Hamilton  
Maintenance, Ed Deiwert  
Agricultural Museum, Gene McCoy

### DEADLINE DATES FOR BULLETINS

March 15, 2002  
June 15, 2002  
Sept. 15, 2002  
Dec. 15, 2001

You can't fool people all the time  
A fact that's really true  
(The reason - you may think a crime  
But sometimes they're fooling you.)

Easy to tell sinner  
From saint  
The sinner is always  
    The one  
    That you ain't  
*(from mystery poet)*

### Leather Breeches Beans

Sometime during the winter take a string of dried green beans down, remove the thread, and drop them in a pot of scalding water. Then add "a good hunk'a meat" (ham, pork, or the like, depending on your taste) and cook all morning.

### Cracklin' Bread

Prepare corn bread by using 2 cups corn meal, 2 teaspoons of salt, 1 cup of buttermilk, 1 teaspoon of soda, and 1/2 teaspoon of baking powder. Mix 1/2 cup of cracklin's into the mixture. If it is too dry use some lukewarm water to make the right consistency for corn bread. Put in the oven and cook until done.

If your dues are due please use this form to send them to the address below.

Historical Society of Decatur County, Inc.

P.O. Box 163 Greensburg, IN 47240

Due January 1 of each year: Membership: single - \$10: Couple - \$15: Contributing - \$30

RENEWAL

NEW

GIFT OR DONATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMORIALS

IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

### **SOCIETY'S OFFICERS**

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Greensburg, IN 47240  
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Rec. Sec..... Charity Mitchell  
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Membership Sec..... Rheadawn Metz  
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Diana Springmier  
Van Batterton at large

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### **MUSEUM DIRECTOR**

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### **SOCIETY'S AGENT**

William H. Robbins

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF  
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P.O. BOX 163  
GREENSBURG, IN 47240

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